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Early English Text Society.

"Generydes."

Generydes,

A ROMANCE IN SEVEN-LINE STANZAS.

EDITED FROM
THE UNIQUE PAPER MS. IN TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
(ABOUT 1440 A.D.),

BY
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BURSAR OF TRINITY COLL., CAMBRIDGE,
EDITOR OF 'BACON'S ESSAYS,' 'THE BIBLE WORDBOOK,' ETC.; JOINT EDITOR OF THE
'CAMBRIDGE SHAKSPERE,' ETC.

PART I.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED FOR THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY,
BY N. TRÜBNER & CO., 57 & 59, LUDGATE HILL.

MDCCCLXXIII.

Price Three Shillings.

PR 1119 H2 no. 53

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G E N E R Y D E S.

In olde Romans and storys as I rede, Of Inde Somtyme ther was a nobyH kyng, IentiH, curteys, fuH trew in worde and dede, Wyse and manly preuyd in euery thyng, To his people fuH good and eke lovyng, Mighty and ryche, a mañ of nobyH fame, And Auferius this was the kynges name.	1	[leaf 1] Auferius, king of India,
 This worthy prince hadde weddyd in <i>serteyne</i> A fayre lady, and comne of nobyH kynne ; And what pleasure he cowde for her ordeyne, That shuld be do, ther was noo lette therin ; In euery thyng he dede hyr loue to wynne, He hadde nomore to lese and that he knewe, ffor afterward she was to hyñ vntrewe.	 4 7	 a man of noble fame,
 Hire fader was a mañ of grete powre, And kyng of aufrike as I vnderstonde, his doughter quene of Inde as ye shall here, kepyng right grete estate withynne the lande, And aH the reme obeyed to hyre hande ; And of hyr name to telle withoutyñ lese, The story seyth she hight Serenydes.	 8 11	 married a fair lady, Serenydes, daughter to the king of Africa,
 This kyng of ynd, of whom I spake before, hadde a Styward a mañ of grete renowñ, he gouernyd the contre bothe lesse and more, Also he hadde the Rule of euery towne, And namely tho that longyd to the crowne : him for to plese the pepiH were fuH fayne, And <i>ser</i> amelok his name was for sertayne.	 14 15 18 21 22	 who was unfaithful to him.
	25	His Steward, Sir Amelok, who governed the country,
	28	

was very intimate with her.	Not long after ther felle suehe aqueyntaunce Betwix the Quene and hym, that allway stith hire mynde, hyr thought, was sette to his plesaunce, All his desire hooly for to fulfith, And whenne he lyst she was aȝ atte his wille ; Gret pite that she in suehe a wyse Shuld sette hyr wurchippe atte so litiȝ prise.	29 32 35
One day the king, with four or five attendants, rode a hunting into a fair forest,	Vppoñ a day the kyng ^t for his disporte An huntyng ^t went onto a fayre forest, Whanne he was sadde to putte hym in coumfort, he lefte his meñ at home bothe most and lesse, Save iiij or v suehe as hym semyd best, And forth he gothe ther as the hartys hye, his houndys were oneopelyd by and by.	36 39 42
and was separated from his companions.	An hert was fownde among the holtys hye, And vppe vppoñ his fete he was a noñ ; The houndys went after with a mery eryl, The kyng rode after aȝ hym self alone, Tyȝ he hadde lost his knyghtes eueryehone, The houndes and the hert that was be fore, Withynne a while they harde of theñ nomore.	43 46 49
He lost his way,	So rode he fourth as noo thyngge he roughȝt, hys game was lost, his knyghtes forþe be hynde, And specially on them was aȝ his thought, For houghȝe they were he wyste not theñ to fynde, Thus rydith he sore trobelyd in his mynde ; The day was gonne, wherefore rigȝt hertely To god he prayd to send hym some remedy.	50 53 56
but rode on till he came to a road which led to a house,	And, As god wold, hym happyd in a waye, Whiche brought hym streyte to a goodly plaee ; And as his goodis is redy to purvaye	57

- ffor good people in euery nedcful case, 60
 With that counfort he rode a better pase,
 And whenne that he was come nygh hande *therate*, when a fair
 A fayre mayde ther openyd hym the gac. 63 maiden opened
 the gate
- She scid he was welcome to that ostage, 64 and welcomed
 him.
 There were nomore but she and other twayn,
 One of them was a man right ferre in age, She and her mail
 The toder was hyr mayden in *sertayne*, 67 and an old man
 were the only
 inhabitants,
 To make hym chere they dede ther besy payn,
 To hyr chaunbyr she brought hym verily, and she
 Whiche was arayed right wele and richely. 70 brought him
 to her chamber,
- In that chaunber ther was an hanged bedde, 71 where was a
 Of sylk and gold full curiously wrought, bed with curious
 And ther vppon a shete of launde was spredde, hangings.
 As clenly dressed as it cowde be thought : 74
 ‘And now,’ quod she, ‘that ye be hedyr brought,
 Yow to counfort is holy myn entente,
 This howse is all atte your comaundement.’ 77
- Anone vppon as she these wordis saide, 78
 Ther come an hert in att the chaunber dore
 All embosed ; the kyng was sore dismayede,
 Semyng to hym, as it passid in the flore, 81
 It was the same he chased in the more ;
 This is, thought he, for me some maner trayne,
 And ther with [all] she seyde to hym ageyn : 84
 which the king
 thought was the
 same he had
 chased.
- ‘Be not a ferde of this sodeyn aventur ; 85
 It is for no harme, it is all for your beste,
 This old fader he knowit very sure,
 Of vij Saugys callid the wysest 88
 That was in Rome, but *ther* he myght not rest,
 fful wekydly he and his vj felawes
 In to the see were cast among the wawis. 91
- as the old man
 knows, who is
 the wisest of the
 7 Sages of Rome.

- When he was cast adrift with his fellows,
he was thrown on the coasts of Syria, where my father is king,
and became the chief of his council.
- And as the grace of god it wold ordeyne,
In Surre was this goodman east a lande,
Where my fader is kyng¹ and souerayne,
Seke and wery ye may wele vnderstonde ;
And whanne that he was founde on the sand,
he sent for hym to come and not to fayle,
And whenne he came was made chefe of his counceH.
- He sayde the land of Surry shuld be lost
By a Gyaunte, and aH for love of me ;
Wherefore be his ayvse in to this cost
I am come here, in lyke wyse as ye see ;
And forthermore I praye yow take in gre,
That I shaH in your presenee declare,
As fortune wiH for youre ease and welefare.
- And in this ease to telle the mater playne,
Of very trougth and make no more delayes,
This nyght *ther* shaH be goten betwix vs twayne
A chil^d that shaH do mervelys in his dayes,
And moeche a do he shaH haue many wayes
With grete travell, and aH eskape right wele,
This old fader canne tell this euery dele.
- Only for this, and for non other thyng,
The hert that ye haue chased aH this daye,
he was trewly the cause of your' eomyng,
And to this place he gidyd yow the weye ;¹
This is the very trougth as I yow saye,
Yet most ye knowe a thyng that is be hynd,
Touchyng the quene, whiche is to yow vnkynd
- And vtterly ontrew in euery thyng ;
She and the Stiward bothe of on assent,
With ther sotilte and false Imageninge,

¹ MS. *wete*.

- Yow to distroye that is ther hoole entente, 123 and with the
 flfor she is hoole at his eommaund[e]ment ;
 And aH to do yow hurte and hynderaunce,
 Whiche afterward shalbe to *your* plesaunee.' 126
 For these tidynges the kyng abasshid sore, 127 The king was
 But ayenward whanne he thought on that mayde
 Anone his eher amendid more and more,
 Remembryng the wordis that she sayde 130
 Of his abideng ther ; thenne he hyr prayed
 To late hym wete the very eertente, and asked to
 And she answerd ayen that myght not be. 133 know the real
 cause of his
 being there,
 'This old fader that is my felaw here, 134 but she said
 he eanne telle that as wele as eny wight.' the old man
 could tell him,
 The kyng hast[ed] to here of this mater',
 And prayed that man that he wold telle hym right.
 he answered hym and saide, 'as for that nyght
 Go to your rest, for that is my counceH, and this he
 promised to do
 next day.
 To morow shaft ye knowe withoute fayle.' 140
 . Anon vpon ther soper was redy, 141
 She seruyd hym, in¹ like wyse as hym ought,
 And euery thing Aeecordeng by and by,
 For his plesur trowly ther lakkyd noght, 144
 With aH deyntes trevly as cowde be thought ;
 Hyre ehere, hyr porte, it was in sothe awyse,
 That more goodly that cowde nomañ devise. 147
 After soper, withynne a litiH spae 148
 She brought hym to his bedde with torehe light,
 And eyther stode so wele in otheris graee,
 That she with hym layde in armys right ; 151
 And what plesure they hadde as for y^t nyght,
 Peraventure full good, who so it wist,
 I eanne not saye, demc ye as ye list. 154

¹ MS. *and in*.

- But how that euer it was be twix them thwayne, 155
- It so happened
that a child
was begotten,
It happith, so the writeng^t doth expresse,
That nyghit ther was a child gotenⁿ certeynⁿ;
After his hunteng^t and his besynesse, 158
ffor his traveH and his grete werynes
after which the
king fell asleep,
but the lady
lay awake
sighing,
he felle a slepe, and for to saye yow more
She sleppyd not, but lay and syghid sore. 161
- With hyr syghenyng^t a nonⁿ with AH she wept, 162
And on his armys dede the terys falle,
letting her tears
fall on his shirt;
so that he
awoke,
That thorough his shirte he felt it as he slept;
Right sodenly he brayded and wooke with AH, 165
And curtesly on hyr he beganne to calle,
saying he feared
she repented of
his coming.
'I drede me sore,' quod he, 'in mynⁿ entente
That of my comyng heder ye repente.' 168
- 'Nay,' said she,
'but my sorrow
is for your
departing.'
'Repente,' quod she, 'nay, nay, I yow ensure, 169
Your' departeng^t is cause of aH my smerte,
Only for that I do this payne endure,
ffor I shaH lose the plesur^t of mynⁿ hert, 172
And aH my Ioye, I may it not asterte,
Withoute socour^t or helpe O warentice,
My disteyney hath shape it in this wyse.' 175
- 'Fair lady,' he
said, 'I hope
we shall not
part so soon,
'My fayre lady,' quod he to here Ageyne,¹ 176
'I haue good hoope we shaH not parte so sone,
And if we do, I seye yow eerteynⁿ
My chefe counfort is aH to geder doon; 179
To morow shaH we wete or it be none,
but to-morrow
the old man will
tell us.
This old fader that ye kepe with you here,
he shaH telle vs the trougth of this mater.' 182
- When it was day and it was tyme to rise, 183
This old fader on to the kyng^t he goth,
And whanne he camⁿ he spak in this wise;

¹ MS. *Accyne*.

- ‘That I shaH sey, leve me withoute othe, 186 At daybreak the
This nyght is geten a sone betwix yow both, old man
Whiche shalbe suche, myn auctour doth expresse, told him that he
That aH contres shaH speke of his prowesse. 189 must leave,
- Here may ye a byde no lenger in this place, 190
ffor very trougth for eauses more thanne on ;
But of your’ shirt I must telle yow the cause, and that the
Vppon the whiche hir terys felt vppon : 193 tear-stained shirt
Ther shaH non wassh them owt but she alone, could only be
Not be no maner of craft, take this of me, washed by the
But she sette handes therto it wilH not be. 196 lady herself.
- And now to yow, madame, thus I saye ; 197 The lady he
Yow must departe, and I shaH telle yow whye, warned to return
The kyng youre fader is right seke this day, to her father,
And lythe ner’ vppon the poynte to dye ; 200 who was dying.
And but ye ryde this day right hastely,
And leve aparte aH other thyng therfore, [leaf 2]
Ye are not lyke to speke with hym nomore.’ 203
- When he seid aH that he thought to seye, 204
Ther nedid noo displeasur’ to be sought ;
The kyng’ knewe wele ther was non other way,
They must departe, and that was aH his thought ; 207
Thenne were they bothe so ferre in sorow brought,
Be cause of ther’ so sodenly departeng’,
They cowde not speke a word for erthely thyng’. 210
- He toke his leve in sorowfull maner, 211 The king took his
hym for to be holde it was a grete pite ; leave in sorrow,
And furthe he rideth with full heuy chere,
With his knyghtes to mete and it wold be : 214
And at the last it happyd hym to see, and in a fair
Where as they rode in a full fayre vaile, valley fell in with
he sporyd his hors and theder toke the way. 217 his knights,

- They hym *perseyued* sone, and forthe they went, 218
 A none they mette the kyng vppon the waye,
 who saw that he was sad, he was no thyng^t mery to ther entente,
 That wist they wele yet durst they noo thyng^t seye, 221
 Withynne his brest he kept it day be day ;
 And whanne that he came home, I yow ensure,
 Of his counceit ther wist non erthely creature. 224
- Now to this lady lete vs turne ageyn, 225
 The lady went her way to Syria with the old man and her maid,
 Whiche to Surry hath take hir viage,
 And in hir eompanye no mañ but twayn,
 hir mayde and the old man ferre in age ; 228
 So atte last they come to the village,
 Ther for to rest as for a nyghtis space,
 A dayes Iurney owt of the kynges place. 231
- She Rode to court in grete henynesse, 232
 and came to her father,
 And furth with añ she came to the kyng^t,
 Which was febyñ and sokyd with sekenesse ;
 Yet not for thy he hadde trew knowleginge 235
 who gave her his blessing,
 Of his doughter, and gave hyr his blyssyng^t,
 his land, is good, withoute eny stryffe,
 and died,
 And so to god he passed owt of his lyffe. 238
- There was wepyng^t and many a hevy chere, 239
 Among^t them añ grete sorow ganne they take,
 And as it is the custom and maner',
 Anone they were arrayed in clothis blake ; 242
 And sone¹ vppoñ ordenaunee ganne they make,
 and was royally buried.
 In añ the hast posible as for his beryeng^t,
 In Ryañ wise accordyng^t to A kyng^t. 245
- This yong^t lady so goodly and so faire, 246
 The lordes añ and the Comyns of the lande,
 Be cause she was his doughter and his ayre,

¹ MS. *sone A.*

- They toke hir for ther quene I vnderstonde, 249 His daughter
And crowned hir with septer in hyr hande ; was crowned
And afterward, as is the right vsage, queen,
The lordys aH to hir dede homage. 252
- She was fuH wele belouyd in eerterne 253 and was well
Of hir lordes and of hir comen^aute, beloved,
And of hir name she was callid Sereyne,
ffro the first day of hir natiuite, 256 but refused to
ffuH humbly they hir be sought that she marry.
Wold be maryed, for that was ther a vise, Her name was
But that she wold not in no maner a wyse. 259 Sereyne.
- The tyme came that hir wombe be ganne to grow 260 At length, when
Som dele gretter thanne it was wont to be, her womb began
But yet she wold not it hadde beñ knowe ; to grow, she took
here mayde she callid furth in priuite, 263 counsel with her
Meden she highȝt, the story tellith it me, maid Medeyn,
To whom the quene hadde a right fey[th]fuH trost, .
ffor to that mayde she myghȝt sey what here lyst. 266
- And whaȝ she came, she told here aH the case, 267
lyke as it was of aH here aventur :
'Madame,' quod she, 'I shall with goddes grace
ffuH trewly kepe your counceH be you sure : ' 270 who promised to
So went she fourth hyr seosynne to endure, be true to her,
TiH atte last, be goddes purvyaunce, and so it went on
The tyme was come of hir delyueraunce. 273 till the time of
her delivery
arrived.
- Thenne was ther noȝ of counceH saue Medeyn ; 274
Ther was no noyse, nor ther was noo eryng,
I canne wele thynk the gretter was hir payne ;
her meny hadde noȝ other knowleginge, 277
But hir sekenes was of some other thinge :
So this lady, fuH debonerly and myld,
Brought furth a sonne whiche was a threfte child. 280 She brought forth
a son ;

but none knew save Medeyn, who took it to a lavender to be brought up.	Medeyne it toke and in hir lappe it leyde, She brought it streyght on to a lavender ; 'This is sothely my Suster sonne,' she sayde, 'I wold it were kept in good maner.' 'Maistres,' seyde she, 'eare not for this mater, I shaH it bere oñ to A good noryse, Whiehe shaH it kepe right wele o warantye.'	281 284 287
A nurse was found for the child,	First to a norise, as fast as euer they eanne, They brought the ehild withoute eny lese ; And thanne to ehireh to make a eristenmañ,	288
who was christ- ened Generydes.	And eallid it be name Generydes ; Thenne his moder, after aH hir dissesse, Askyd medeyn if she hadde done wele And she seid yae, and told hir euery dele.	291 294
As soon as he could speak	Whenne the tyme was come that he eowde speke and goo, And vnderstonde what folkys did hym ealle,	
the queen sent for Medeyn to bring him to court.	The quene anoñ, withoute wordes moo, Callid Medeyn, and she came furth with aH : 'Medeyn,' quod she, 'my wiH in ¹ espeeiaH Is for to haue my sone Generydes In courte ² with me his honour to enerese.'	298 301
[leaf 2, back]	To eurte he eame a pratyng yong ^r seruau ^t , But what he was ther wyst noo creature, Saue only this that Medeyn was his Aunte, ³	302
He came, and grew up at court,	And so fourth in courte he dede endure, Til he was wexen of a goodly stature, And ther with also lentiH and eurteys, That ⁴ aH the countre ⁵ right gretely did hym plese.	305 308
till one day he asked Medeyn of his father.	Vppoñ A day he axkid of Medeyn Of his ffader, and hough is moder was, She answeyrd hym, and this she sayde ayeñ,	309

¹ MS. *is in.*² MS. *contre.*³ MS. *Aunte.*⁴ MS. *Thall.*⁵ ? *courte.*

- ‘I yow beseche of respite in this ease 312
 TiH on^e the morow, and thenne with^e goddes grace
 AH that ye haue desired now of me,
 Sone shaH ye knowe the very serteynte.’ 315
- Of his desire the quene hadde knowleginge, 316
 She sent for hym^e and seid, ‘Generydes,
 Of ynde suerly your^e fader is the kyng^e,
 And I your moder am withoute lese ; 319
 But ye must kepe this mater husht and peece,
 ffor ther is now^e that knoweth it saue we twayne
 In aH the court, but if it be Medeyn.’ 322
- And whenne he knowe this mater very right, 323
 Streyght to the quene he seid for eny thing^e;
 Besechyng^e hir of lieence that he myght
 Se the courte where his fader is kyng^e: 326
 ffor as hym^e thought it were right wele semyng^e,
 ffor to do hym^e seruiee as in that ease,
 And rather ther thanne in a stranger plae. 329
- And he wold so demene hym^e furth with aH, 330
 That in the countre ther shuld no maner weight,
 But if it were the kyng^e in espeeiaH,
 Wete what he¹ were be countenaunce or sight. 333
 The quene Answeryd and seyde, ‘aH is but right
 That ye desire, and therefore be myn^e Assent
 Is and shalbe to forder your ente[nt].’ 336
- And furth with aH she callid Natanell,² 337
 A IentiH mañ right connyng and courteyse ;
 To hym^e she told this mater euery dele,
 Of hyr and of hir sonne Generydes, 340
 And who is fader was withouten^e lese,
 And how that his desire in eny wise
 Is for to do his fader some seruiee. 343

The queen told
 him she was his
 mother, and the
 king of India his
 father.

He begged that
 he might go to
 India to his
 father,

promising to keep
 the secret of his
 birth.

The queen en-
 trusted him to
 the care of
 Natanell,

¹ MS. *I*.

² MS. *Natarell*.

- 'Therefore,' *quod* she, 'I *prae* yow feithfully, 344
 That ye wiþ do the pleasure that ye may
 Onto my sone, and teche hym throughely
 That att longith to hym to do or saye ; 347
 ffor his expencez and for his aray,
 ffor hors or meñ that maye be for your spede,
 he shaþ not lakke no thyngt that hym nede. 350
- whom she warned
 to beware of the
 Steward,
 But be weþ ware that the Stiward knowe not this, 351
 Whiche is ontrewē and hath be many a daye ;
 ffor if he may knowe who is sonne he is,
 he wiþ suerly distroye hym and he maye : 354
 Wherefore whanne ye come ther this shaþ ye seye,
 A Dukes sone he is and borñ in Greke,
 To se the kyngt and wurehippe for to seke. 357
- and to convey a
 ring from her to
 the king.
 And whanne ye maye fynd good leyser and spase, 358
 That sekerly ye may speke with the kyngt,
 Ye shaþ me reemaunde on to his good graee
 ffuþ humbly, and take ye hym this ryngt, 361
 he gave it me atte our' last departengt ;
 When he it seth it shaþ his thought renewe,
 And suerly knowe that your massage is trew.' 364
- Natanell pro-
 mises to obey
 her wishes.
 This Ientiþ mañ gave answer¹ in this wise : 365
 'Madame,' *quod* he, 'my wiþ is and shaþ
 To do your' sone pleasure and *seruice*,
 As ye shalbe right wele content withaþ, 368
 With goddes grace and what that euer befaþ,
 Better or werse or what aventure be tyde,
 Ye shaþ wiþ wete I wiþ wiþ hym a byde.' 371
- Furthe on his way Rideth Generydes, 372
 lakkyngt no thing that eawde be hadde in mynde ;
 And of his labour wuld he neuer sese,

¹ MS. *an answer.*

- TiH he come streygh̃t atte Reme of ynd, 375 They come to
Thenne forthermore as reasone wold hym bynd, India, to the
Of dyuerse folke he asked where laye the kyng̃t: chief city
- Att parentynne, they seid withoute feyning̃, 378 Parentine,
- Off aH the land named the chefe Citce: 379
- Then NataneH as sone as euer he mygh̃t,
The best loggyng̃ of aH that he cowde see, where NataneH
ffor his maister he dede it redy digh̃t, 382 took a lodging,
- And ther he toke his rest as for that nygh̃t,
And on the morow in good and riche araye, and on the
he went to see the kyng̃t ther as he laye; 385 morrow they
went to court.
- And NataneH with hym in companye. 386
- The kyng̃t was sette and serued in the haH,
With knygh̃tes and Esquyers throughely, The king was in
In grete astate among the lordes aH; 389 the hall among
Thanne NataneH the porter gannc to calle, his lords.
- he came anoñ withoute taryeng̃t,
And curtesly gaue them ther welcomyng̃t. 392
- Furthe anoñ in to the halle they gannc goo, 393
- And to the kyng̃t they made Reuerence,
lyke as it was accordyng̃t for to do. They made
Thenne NataneH in opyn audience, 396 their reverence
Before his lordes in his hyc presence, to him,
- ffuH connyngly in aH his demeanyng̃t,
Right in this wise he seide onto the kyng̃t: 399 and NataneH
said
- ‘ Rygh̃t noble prince, this Ientilman present 400
- To yow is come ferre out of his contre,
A dukes sone of Greke born by disente, that Generydes
here in your court desireng̃t for to be, 403 was the son of
To lerne connyng̃t and wurchippe for to see: a duke of Greece,
- The Duke his ffader wold he shuld do so, [leaf 3]
- And be right gladde ye leste excepte hym so.’ 406 who desired to
be in the king’s
court.

- When he hadde seid and made his Reuerence, 407
 The kyng^e anon thanne answeyrd to NataneH,
 And seid he was welcome to his presence,
 Be holding^e wele his face and euerydele ; 410
 Thenne that lady that harboryd hym so wele
 ffeH in his mend, and thought be his visage
 he was fuH lyke to be of hire lenage. 413
- He loked fast on to hym in stede fast wise, 414
 And thought alway his sonne that he shuld be :
 Whenne mete was do the kyng^e be ganne to ryse,
 To nataneH his maister thanne saide he : ¹ 417
 ‘This yong^e Esquyer is right welcome to me ;
 he shaH lak noght, I say yow for certeyn ;’
 And he right lowly thanked hym ageyn. 420
- They hadde mantellys and aH of on^e makyng^e, 421
 Whiche were right sone departed bothe in fere ;
 Generydes withoute taryeng^e
 Gaue his mantiH on to the Boteler^e, 424
 Thenne NataneH, in right curtes maner^e,
 To the porter he gaue that was his owne,
 In thankefuH wise the better to be knowen. 427
- And so they live in court. Thus in the courte dwellid Generydes, 428
 Right wele belouyd of euery creature,
 So weH wexen that he was doutelys
 A very goodly man, I you ensure : 431
 With good vesage, fuH metely of stature,
 his porte, his chere, and all his behavinge
 fuH like a Ientilman in euery thyng^e. 434
- After a time, as the king was alone in a gallery, It happyd so withynne a litiH space, 435
 The kyng^e a lone went in [a] Galery ;
 Thanne NataneH aspied where he was,

¹ MS. *he saide*.

- And to the kyng^e he went trewly, 438
 To late hym^e wete his erand by and by,
 lyke as he was comaunded for to sey,
 And thus he seid withoute more delay : 441
- ‘Syr, if I durst be bold as in this case, 442
 My message wold I say, if it yow please,
 The quene Sereyne commandith hir to *your grace*,
 And sent yow here your’ sonne Generydes : 445
- Be cause ye shaft think it is noo lese,
 She chargyd me to take yow this ring^e,
 Ye gaue it hir atte your bothe departyng^e.’ 448
- The kyng^e toke gode avise vppon^e the reng^e, 449
 It was his owyn^e, and that anon^e he knowe ;
 To NataneH he seid withoute feyni[n]g^e,
 ‘Gramercy, frend, for your massage is trew, 452
 Ye haue brought hym^e that doth my ioye renew ;
 Whanne he come first hem¹ thought it shuld be he,
 Wherefore I prae yow bryng^e hym^e on^e to me.’ 455
- Thanne furth with aH departed NataneH, 456
 Generydes he brought on to the kyng^e ;
 Whanne he was come the kyng be held hym^e weH,
 And liked hym^e right wele in euery thyng^e, 459
 God wote he was so gladde of his comyng^e,
 That ther cowde noman^e deme betwix hem^e twayne,
 Whiche of them^e bothe were gladder in certayne. 462
- Whanne this was do he went to his seruice, 463
 The kyng dede caH on to hym^e NataneH,
 And charged hym^e in eny maner wise,
 Aboue aH thyng^e that he shuld kepe hym^e welle ; 466
 Thanne seruyd he the quene att euery mele,
 Bothe att hir mete and soper decently,
 The whiche he dede fuH wele and manerly. 469

Natanell gave
him the ring
and message
from Sereyne.

The king recog-
nized the ring

and thanked
Natanell.

Generydes was
then brought
to the king,

and both were
glad.

After this Ge-
nerydes attended
upon the queen,

¹ MS. *he*.

- Withynne a¹ while it happyd in y^{is} wise, 470
 The quene beheld Generydes so weH,
 And liked hym so wele in his service,
 That aH hir loue on hym was euery dele, 473
 And in hyr self she cowde non other fele ;
 Withoute that she myght have his loue ageyn,
 She were on don for euere in certayne. 476
- Not long after the kyng^t on hunteng^t went, 477
 Generydes that day abode behynd,
 The quene knew that, and sone for hym she sent,
 And told hym aH that lay sore in hir mynd ; 480
 'Generydes,' quod she, 'if I myght fynd
 That ye wold loue me best and so endure,
 I shaH do yow the same I you ensure. 483
- FuH long agoo I was in this purpose, 484
 Butt thenne I myght not telle yow what I ment,
 Desireng^t yow to kepe this mater close,
 And lete me haue knowlage of your entent ; 487
 I promys you if ye wiH assent,
 In grete wurehippe I shaH yow wele avaunce,
 And alway do that may be your plesaunee.' 490
- Generydes stode stiff in grete musyng^t, 491
 And to the quene gaue answeere in this case :
 'Madame,' quod he, 'I am bounde to the kyng^t,
 To be his man her' and in euery place ; 494
 And I so moche am hold to his grace,
 That for to haue his Reme myself alone,
 I wold not be ontrew to his person.' 497
- With that he toke his leve and furth he went ; 498
 And whanne she sawe it wold non other be,
 She threte hym sore, and seid he shuld repent,

¹ MS. *ai*.

- She rente hir here, a wonder thyng^e to see, 501 The quene en-
 And brought hir self elene owt of charite ; raged, tore her
 The Stiward came and sawe aH was amys, hair and threaten-
 ‘Madame,’ quod he, ‘what grete affraye is this?’ 504 ed vengeance,
- ‘Afraye,’ quod she, ‘so may ye wele it ealle.’ 505
 ‘But who did this?’ quod he, ‘I prae yow saye ; telling the
 Telle me the sothe, and late me dele withaH, Steward
 ffor I shaH sone a wreke aH this arraye, 508
 What euer he be he shaH repente the daye
 That he was bold, in earnest or in game, [leaf 3, back.]
 To do to yow this villany and Shame.’ 511
- ‘It is,’ quod she, ‘that fals Generydes, 512
 Be cause he myght not haue his wiH of me ;
 ffor by noo prayour he wold neuer sese,
 But thus he hath arayed me as ye se.’ 515 that Generydes
 And whanne the Stiward hard that it was he, had offered her
 ‘Madame,’ quod he, ‘be ye no mor’ displesid, violence.
 ffor in this ease your’ hart shaH sone be eased.’ 518
- He toke a naked sward and forth he goth, 519 The Steward
 Generydes to slee if that he myght ; took a sword
 But he wist wele befor^e the quene was wroth^e, and went forth
 Wherefore be tyme he went owt of hir sight : to kill Generydes ;
 To his chaunber’ the Stiward goth full right, 522
 In euery place he sought hym vppe and don,
 And he was atte his logging^e in the town^e, 525 but he had gone
 to his lodging
 in the town,
- Owt of daunger, and with hym NataneH 526
 To whom he told this mater aH in feere ;
 Quod he ageyn, ‘here in we shaH do weH
 TiH that the kyng^e come home we wilbe here, 529 and told Na-
 Thanne wiH it be good tyme to draw yow neer’, tanell, who
 And do seruice like as ye did be foore, advised him to
 What euer faH they shaH preyse yow the more.’ 532 await the king’s
 return.
- GENERYDES. 2

- The king came home, and Generydes served in the hall, The kyng came home, with hym his knyghtez aȝ, 533
 Generydes, as he was wont to do,
 fuȝ wele and goodly *seruyd* in the haȝ :
 The Stiward hadde fuȝ grete enuy therto, 536
 And in his hand he bare a staff also ;
 So goȝ he furthe in myddes of the prese,
 In grete anger threting^t Generydes 539
- Withoute reason, and seid, ‘what dost yⁿ here? 540
 here is noman content of thii *seruiee*.’
 Generydes he gaue hym noȝ answere ;
 ‘Why spekest thou not?’ *quod* he, ‘thou art not wise.’
 And with that word, in fuȝ ereweȝ wise,
 when the Steward took him by the hair and smote him, he toke hym be the heere ther as he stode,
 And smote hym so that his nose braste on blode. 546
- The king, wroth to see his son wronged, And whanne the kyng^t *perseyuid* aȝ the case, 547
 Thow he were wrothe ther ouȝt nomaȝ hym blame,
 To see his sonne so wrongyd as he was ;
 called to the Steward, he callid oȝ to the Stiward bi his name, 550
 ‘Traytour,’ *quod* he, ‘god geve y^e uery shame,
 This yong^t Squyer suerly dede noȝ offensee,
 And thou hast smetyn^d hym here in my presence. 553
- Not only now thou dost me villany, 554
 Butt here afore thou hast do many moo :’
 and stabbed him in the arm. And with his knyff he smote hym¹ hastily
 Thorough the arme, and when he hadde so do, 557
 ‘Out of my sight I warne the that yⁿ goo.’
 With that the quene was wroth in hir maner,
 Thought she anoȝ this towelhith me right ner’. 560
- The Steward went to his castle Owt of the court the Stiward went his weye, 561
 To his eastȝ he toke the wey fuȝ right,
 And made hym strong^t of mew and of array,

¹ MS. *hym hym*.

- And euermore his thought was day and nyght 564
 To avenge hym of the kyng^t if that he myght ; and plotted
 To that purpose he sette aH his entente, vengeance.
 And moche people he hadde of his assent. 567
- Now late vs leue aH this as for A space, 568
 And to Generydes I wiH returne,
 So rebukyd and skomfite as he was, Generydes was so
 he coude not make no chere but alwey mourn), 571 that he could not
 And lenger ther he thought not to sogeourne,¹ remain,
 But hastely to make his departeng^t,
 And furth withaH he came to the kyng^t. 574
- He knelid down) and seid right in this wise ; 575 and begged the
 ‘ Ser, if it please your goodnesse for to hire, king
 With yow I haue eontynued my seruice
 In pese and rest, and now y^e2 Stiward her’ 578
 hath smete me in full crueH maner,
 And hath putte me to Shame in your’ presenece,
 And wile I wote I dede hym non) offense. 581
- I may not ease my hert as in this case, 582
 That doth me harme whanne I remembre me,
 here afterward I shaH, be goddis grace,
 Think ther vppon) whanne I a seasons see, 585
 I wiH no lenger dwelle in this contre,
 Wherefore, I you beseche, sithe it is so,ⁱ
 That ye wiH graunte me licence for to go ; 588 to let him go.
- And whiH I leue your’ trew man shaH I be, 589
 Where euer I traveH to and fro,
 To do yow pleasur’ that at lithe in me,
 ffor right gretly am I holden) therto.’ 592
- And whanne the kyng^t knew weH that he wold go, The king
 And that ther was non) other meane to fynde,
 God wote he was right heuy in his mynd. 595

¹ MS. *sogeourur*.² MS. *now is y^e*.

and all his knights were sorry	The knyghtes aH, and the squyers truely, Were fuH sory of his sone departeng, Notwithstondyng ther was noo remedy, But furth he goth withoute more taryeng, Right vmbly he toke leue of the kyng, And so fourth he went thorough owt y ^e haH,	596 599
when he took leave.	ffuH curtesly he toke leue of them aH.	602
Generydes and Natanell	Generydes and also NataneH To ther logging ^t they toke the redy waye, And trused ther ^r harnes euery dele,	603 606
trussed up their harness	Whanne that was do Generydes ganne saye, 'Now late vs here appoynt for our Iurnay In to what land or contre we shaH goo.'	609
and resolved to go	<i>Quod</i> nataneH, 'that hold I wele to do :	609
[leaf 4]	To Surry ward, hough seye ye now be that? The queene Sereyne wold right fayne se you <i>ther</i> . 'A ^H that is sothe,' <i>quod</i> he, 'but wote ye what? In stranger ^r place fayne wold I that we were, ifor I am now of age harmes to bere ; And to be knyght as I see other be, The more wurchippe the better think[eth] me.'	610 613 616
	'A ^H this is very sothe,' <i>quod</i> NataneH, 'To your entent I canne right wele agree ; Ther is a land I am remembryd wele, Men call it Perse, a plenteuous contre, Ther and [yow] wiH the Sowdon may yow see, The whiche is knowyn bothe ferre And nere, A myghti prince, a man of gret powre.'	617 620 623
to Persia.	Generydes thanne answerd in this wise : 'To that contre I rede we take the waye, ffor ther we may not fayle of good service,	624

- As ye suppose, tell me what ye seye.' 627
 'Kepe stiH,' quod he, 'your' purpose I yow praye,
 To myn entent ther is best abydeng',
 I wote he wiH be gladde of your comyng'. 630
- Ther hors, ther meñ, were redy euerychon, 631
 To that contre they toke the wey fuH right,
 And on hir wey so ferre fourth were thei goon,
 That of the Citee sone they hadde a sight, 634
 Theder they came be thanne it was nyght,
 And fourth withaH to ther loggyng' they went,
 The best that they cowde fynde to ther' entent. 637
- It was the best Citee of aH the lande, 638
 And mountener it hight withoute fayle,
 Therin the Sowdon was I vnderstonde,
 In a casteH fuH riche of appareH. 641
 Generydes thanne after his grete appareH,
 And NataneH they bothe in good aray,
 To the Sowdon they toke y^e redy way. 644
- And whanne they came ther' as the Sowdon was, 645
 Ther' wer' knyghtes and Squyers many on,
 hym self walkeng' in his disporteng' place,
 They aH awaiteng' vppon his persone, 648
 Generydes and NataneH anoon.
 Avaunsed them the sowdon for to see,
 Goffore he hight, the story tellith it me. 651
- Whanne¹ he hym saw he did to hym obeseaunce, 652
 fuH manerly and seyd right in this wise;
 'Ser, if it be your' wiH and your' pleasaunce,
 her am I come to offer' my seruice 655
 To your' lordshippe, right as ye list to devise,
 Now please it yow to take me for your' man,
 And I shaH do suche seruice as I canne.' 658

They came to the
chief city,
Mountener,
where the Sultan
Goffore dwelt,

and found him
walking in his
pleasure ground.

Generydes offered
him his service,

¹ MS. *Thanne*.

- The Sowdon stode and hard hym euery dele, 659
 he toke good hede att hym in euery thing;
 And doughit ye not he lekid hym right wele,
 Bothe his person and aH his demeaneng, 662
 And furthwith gaue hym his weleomyng^t
 ffuH eurtlesly, and seid in IentilH wise;
 . 'I am content of you to haue seruice: 665
- What¹ is your name? I prae yow teH it me.' 666
 'My name,' quod he, 'ser, is Generydes.'
 'Generydes,' he said, 'wele mote ye thee;
 A Ientilman ye seme withouten lese, 669
 And in wurchippe right lekely to encrease;
 and was accepted. Wherefore of suehe as do to me seruice
 I wiH that ye be nexst in eny wise.' 672
- The Su'tan's daughter, The Sowdon hadde his doughiter and his ayre 673
 In his palys vnder his gouernaunce,
 And for eerteyne she was right inderly fayre,
 And, as the writeng^t makith remembraunce, 676
 ffuH womanly of speche and countenaunce;
 In suehe wise hir name beganne to sprede,
 That euery man spake of hir goodlyheed. 679
- And as the Sowdon was sett att his mete, 680
 Generydes softely he beganne to ealle,
 The best deynte that before hym was sett
 he toke it hym, and badde hym goo with aH 683
 To his doughiter: 'my lord,' quod he, 'I shaH.'
 So fourth he goth ther as this lady was,
 Clarionas, Mynne Auctour seith she hight clarionas. 686
- loved Generydes, This fayre lady behelde Generydes, 687
 In stedefast wise on hym she east hir eye,
 . AH his maners so wele it did hyr plece,

¹ MS. *That*.

- That she constreyned was in eertheynte 690
 To loue hym best, it wold noon other be ;
 She thought it dede hir good on hym to thynk,
 And of hir cuppe she offeryd hym to drynk. 693
- He toke it of hir hand full curtesly, 694
 And ferthermore, as I this mater fele,
 In his conseyte, I say¹ yow eertheynly,
 hym liked neuer creatur so wele : 697
 his mynde, his thought, was sett on hir yehe deell ; and his mind was
 And, as I cowde perseyue in myn entent, set on her.
 There hartes bothe were sone of on Assent. 700
- Generydes he toke his leue anon, 701
 To sone she thought as after hir avise,
 Yet or² that he departed was and goon,
 To kysse hym she forgate not in no wise, 704
 he thanked hir and offerid hir seruice,
 To be hire man and alway to be trew,
 So to endur and neuer to renew. 707
- Vppe from hir mete arose clarionas, 708
 And on hir bedde she leyde hir fourth with AH ;
 hir mayden had grete merveil what it was,
 And full softly on hir she be ganne to calle, 711
 ‘Madame,’ quod she, ‘what thing is now be fall?
 Of your dissesse I prae yow telle it me,
 To wete yow seke it is a gre[te] pite.’ 714 [leaf 4, back]
- Ther with the lady gaue answere ageyn 715 She told her
 Vnto hir mayden, Mirabeil was her name ; maid, Mirabell,
 ‘Of my dissesse,’ quod she, ‘yf I shuld layne of her disease,
 Only to yow, I wis I were to blame ; 718
 I haue founde yow, in earnest and in game,
 Att all tymes full secrete and full trew,
 And soth to saye I neuer other knewe : 721

- And for to telle you plenly of my dissese, 722
 This is the cause ; ther is on) specialy
 hath don) me harme, god wote causeles,
 I neuer offendid hym) truly ; 725
 And me think ther is noo remedy,
 ffor I was neuer seke on) this maner',
 A fore this tyme now knowe ye aH in fer'. 728
- 'Not aH,' quod she, 'madame, that may not be ; 729
 ffor yet I haue no knowlage whiche he is.'
 'It is,' quod she, 'a yong Squyer', parde ;
 he is but late come to my lord, I wis, 732
 A very goodly man), so haue I blisse.'
 'AH this may be, and I beleue the same ;
 But good madame,' quod she, 'what is his name?' 735
- and that unless
she could see
Generydes,

it would not
long be well
with her.
 'To seye yow sothe,¹ Generydes he hight.' 736
 Quod she ageyn, 'now wote ye euery dele ;
 Butt I of hym) right sone may haue a sight,
 With me I wote it wiH not long be wele, 739
 ffor hym) only is aH that euer I fele,
 And alway more and more it doth encrese ;
 God wote I am no thing' in hertys ease.' 742
- 'Madame,' quod she, 'dismay yow neuer a dele, 743
 Be of good chere, hurt not yow to soore ;
 Doughte ye noo thing' AH this shalbe right wele,
 ffor I shaH trewly do my part ther fore 746
 With right good wiH, and for to say yow mor',
 ffor² this mater I shaH do wele ordeyne
 That ye suerly shaH speke with hym) ayen.' 749
- With that anon) clarionas be ganne 750
 To take hir' chere mor' comfortably,
 Notwithstondyng' she was bothe pale and wanne,

¹ MS. *the sothe*.² MS. *And for*.

- And to hir ma[y]de she seid fuH soberly, 753
 ‘love MyrabeH, I thank yow hertely,
 ffor of myn payne now I haue some respite,
 And if I leue I shaH it yow wele aquyte.’ 756
- Now late vs leue apart clarionas, 757
 And to Generydes turne we ageyn, Generydes, on
his part,
 Whiche for hir sake stondith in hevy case,
 As fuH of thought as he myght be certayn; 760
 Out of the cowrt he went for very peyn,
 Streight to his logging^r hastely he hym spedd,
 Whanne he came ther he leyde hym on his bedd. 763
- His maister had merveH what it ded mene 764 told his master
of his case.
 So sodenly to see hym in that case,
 AH distemperyd and out of colour clene,
 he mused sore what maner a thing it was; 767
 And whanne that he myght gete a metely space,
 Right thus he seid to Generydes,¹
 ‘I *prae* yow, *ser*, Telle me your dissese.’ 770
- ‘Mayster,’ quod he, ‘aH that lythe in my hert, 771
 What euer it be, to yow I wolle not layn
 Why and wherefore I suffer aH this smert,²
 Clarionas she causith it certayn, 774
 ffor hir only I suffer aH this payne,
 And for to sey the very certaynte,
 I wote not why she shuld do this to me.’ 777
- ‘Ye wote what, *ser*, after myn avise, 778 Natanell pro-
mises to speak
with Clarionas.
 Be mery and that is my counceH,
 In this mater I shaH do yow *seruice*,
 And peraventur sumwhat it shaH prevaile; 781
 To morow I shaH be ther withoute faile,
 And speke with hir as touching this mater,
 And what she seith ye shaH haue pleyne answer.’ 784

¹ MS. *Geroerydes*.

² MS. *this certeyn smert*.

- 'Maister,' *quod* he, 'I thank you hartely, 785
 To yow only is all my very trost,
 And what ye think that I shall do trewly,
 In this mater' demeane me as ye list; 788
 hough I shall spede fayne wold I that I wist.'
 'Wele, *ser*,' *quod* he, 'I canne noo ferther saye,
 To my power I shall do what I may.' 791
- With that he partid fro Generydes, 792
 And on the morow, whanne he hadde tyme and space,
 Onto the court he went withouten lese,
 Therfor to speke with fayre clarionas. 795
 Whanne he¹ was come ther as she was,
 MyrabeH came and this to hym ganne seye,
 'Where is,' *quod* she, 'your' maister, I yow prae?' 798
- 'He is at his 799
 lodging full ill
 at ease
 'Att his loggyng, foH ih att ease,' *quod* he, 799
 'And so a be a sithe afore yester day;
 What hym aylith I woote noo thing' parde,
 His comfort and his chere is all awaye, 802
 Butt after myn entent this dare I saye,
 All this is grow, to tell the mater clere,
 Since he was last 805
 here.'
 Whan MirabeH perseivid what he ment, 806
 And what desire he hadde thanne was she fayn,
 All this goth wele, thought she, to myn entent.
 'Wele, *ser*,' she saide, 'to yow I wiH be playn; 809
 Sithe your' maister was here, I wiH nott layne,
 My lady hath be seke bothe day and nyght,
 ffor she hadd neuer rest I yow be hight. 812
- Yet not for thy, if ye haue ought to saye 813
 ffor your maister be his comaund[e]ment,
 Goo forth anon with owt more delaye,

¹ MS. *she*.

- And telle hir all the trougth of your' entent, 816
 To speke with yow she wilbe wele content.' Natanell sought
 So furth withaH, after his purpose was, the princess,
 Streight fourth he goth on to Clarionas. 819
- 'Madame,' quod he, 'my lord Generydes 820
 To you hym recomaundith for eertayne, and told her
 A woful man, elene owt of hartes ease, of Generydes,
 And for to telle yow all the mater playn, 823
 If it please yow ye may respite his payn,
 Of your' goodnesse to graunt hym that licence, who begged that
 That he may come on to your' nobilH presence.' 826 he might come
 into her presence.
- Whenne she had herd these wordes euerydele, 827
 'Come nere,' she said, 'Mirabell, I you p[r]aye.' Mirabell advises
 'Madame,' quod she, 'I vnderstonde hym wele ; that he should
 As me semyth with your' wurehippe ye may 830 be sent for,
 Send me for hym and here what he wilH saye,
 his maister here right sone for hym wilH goo.'
 'I am content,' quod she, 'that it be so.' 833
- MyrabeH came and toke hym owt Aside ; 834
 'Do after me,' quod she, 'as in this case :
 Att this wyndow my lady shaH abide,
 ffor thorough owt the gardeyn he shaH pae, 837 into the garden.
 And ther he shaH haue good leyser and space,
 To saye what that hym list in secrete wise ;
 Now goo furth for this is myn avise.' 840
- Furth on his way departith NataneH 841
 To his maister, and founde hym passengr sadde :
 'What tidynges now,' quod he, 'wilH it be wele ?'
 'Right wele,' quod he, 'be ye noo thyng adred : 844
 Whanne ye knowe all I wote ye wilH be glad,
 As for the first, now take this of me aloon,¹
 She wilH that ye come speke with her anon.' 847

¹ *aloon* added in another hand.

- Who was glad
now but Ge-
nerydes? Now who was gladde, and who was weþ apayde, 848
And endly mery but Generydes,
Remembryng^t what Nataneþ had seid?
So furth he goth, and neuer wold he sese, 851
Into the courte in myddes of the prese,
And so furth on vn to Clarionas,
In the gardeyn where apoynted was. 854
- He went to the
garden to
Clarionas,

Whañ he hyr saw, he fayled countenaunce, 855
Where with suerly he was not wele apayed;
And in like wise, to sey yow in substanee,
On here behalf she was somewhat dismayde; 858
and told her Yet atte last right thus to hir he saide,
'Madame,' *quod* he, 'be cause I hadde lieenee,
I am more bold to come to your' presenee: 861
- of his pain of
heart for her
sake, And for to sey yow myñ entent I wis, 862
As for my self this is the mater playn,
ffor I must suerly tell vs att¹ it is;
My hert is ouereome with very payn 865
Al for your' sake, and so hath beñ eerteyñ
Sithe I was here oñ massage sekerly.'
'hoo so?' *quod* she,² 'I haue grete wounder why. 868
- The truth was
soon known on
both sides What³ cause haue ye to putte me in this witte? 869
As for my part I do no thyng^t nee sey,
I rede putte suche thoughtes in respite;
Where I haue not offendid be this day, 872
Wherby ye shuld be hurt by eny way:
Wherefore,' *quod* she, 'in earnest and in game,
To putte in me the defaute ye are to blame.' 875
- 'Trewly, Madame,' thenne seid Generydes, 876
'Of me ye ought no magry to purehase,
And for to eom yow thanke for my dissese,

¹ So MS. ; perhaps for *telle what*, or *telle all as*.² MS. *he*.³ MS. *That*.

- Now trewly that were a strange case. 879
 Yet be the meane of fauour and of grace
 Ye may me helpe aH only and no mo,
 O trewth it werec your' wurchippe so to do.' 882
- Quod she ageyn, 'if it were for to blame, 883 though after
some bashfulness
on Clarionas's
part,
 My wurchippe were amendes for to make ;
 And in like wise ye aught to do the same,
 If ther were eny suche that for your sake 886
 had so sufferyd payn or heynesse had tak ;
 Peraventour I myght be on of thoo,
 What will ye sey,' quod she, 'and it be so?' 889
- 'Madame,' quod he, 'I here yow speke right wele, 890
 ffluH fayne, god woote, I wold that it wer soo.'
 'Trewly,' quod she, 'it is thus euerydele,
 I yow ensure, I may not goo ther' fro ; 893
 But my wurchippe may not avowe it soo.
 This is the very trouth withoute feyning,
 ffor loue wiH haue his course for eny thing.' 896
- When MyrabeH had hard aH this array, 897
 'After this wert,' quod she, 'god send vs pece :
 I canne wiH think it wiH not lest alway.'
 'Now god defende it,' quod Generydes ; 900
 'I must depart,' quod she, 'withoutyn lesc,
 As for A tyme your' pleasur' for to spare,
 Of eviH speche it is good to be ware.' 903
- And shortly for to say you as it was, 904
 A fuH [a]corde was made betwix them twayn :
 he gaue a ryng on to Clarionas,
 And she toke hym Another for certeyn ; 907 and they ex-
changed rings.
 With trew promys cyther for ioie or payn,
 In stedefast wise ther hertys to ensure,
 Neuer¹ to chaunge but alway [to] endure. 910

¹ MS. *Nouer*.

- And by that tyme fer passid was the day, 911
 Mirabeſſ ſeyd, ‘it is hye tyme for to goo.’
 Thanne wiſt he wele ther was non other waye,
 [leaf 5, back] he muſt departe wheder he wiſſ or noo : 914
 he toke his leue, wherewith he was full woo ;
 And as for hir ſhe was nott wele eontente,
 Yet not for thy ſhe kiſt hym or ſhe went. 917
- Full of[te] tymes ther¹ were betwix hem² twayne, 918
 They often meet in ſecret. Dayes apoynted to mete in ſeerete wiſe :
 Notwithſtandyn^g I ſay yow for eerteyn,
 To hir wurehippe was thought noo preiudice, 921
 Butt only to owe hir his ſervice,
 As feythfully as cowde be thought or ment,
 Ther was non other^g thyng^g in ther entent. 924
- So furth he goth full ſtreyte in to the halle, 925
 To do ſervice hym thought it for the beſt ;
 And for to ſey yow ſoth among^g them Aſſ,
 In court there was none like Generydes,
 Thorough owt the court he was the goodlieſt, 928
 In his demeaning^g the moſt Ientileſt,
 And with a ſpere to renne in warre or peece,
 Ther was non like on to Generides. 931
- Havkyng^g, hunteng^g, he coud good ſkiſſ ther on ; 932
 And what that eny Ientilman ſhuld do,
 for very trougth in aſſ the courte³ was non,
 Knyght or ſquyer, ſo wele wilyng^g ther to : 935
 and all loved him ſave Malichias. Thorough owt the courte³ he hadde the love alſo
 Of euery creatur^g, bothe more and leſſe,
 Saue of A knyght callid ſer Maliehias. 938
- As [for] a tyme leue we Generydes, 939
 His father’s (the king of India’s) Steward And late vs now ſpeke of the kyng^g of ynd,
 And of his Stiward whiche wold neuer ſeſe,

¹ MS. *they*.

² MS. *hym*.

³ MS. *contre*.

- But of malice compasing^t in his mynd 942
 Aȝ maner weyes som treson¹ for to fynd ;
 With aȝ the helpe that he cowde gete certeyn,
 ffor to distroye his lord and souereyn. 945 plotted against
his lord,
- And to *perfourme* aȝ that he hadde take in hand, 946
 This fals Stiward he had gaderid people grete, and gathered an
army
 To the nowmber^r of iiij or v thousand,
 Of meñ of warre the best that he cowl gete ; 949
 And in A busslment fuȝ sone he had them sett
 Nyhand the town, his treson to be gynne,
 And be that meane the cite for to wyne. 952 to win the city.
- Off his tresone the quene knowe wele also, 953 The queen knew
the treason.
 It to *perfourme* she did aȝ hir entent,
 And of hir counceȝ ther were lordes² moo,
 And certeyn of them were of hir^r dissente : 956
 Of aȝ this werk the kyng^t was innocent,
 And of ther falsed no thing^t perseyuyd,
 The more pite he shuld be so disseyued. 959
- And shortly to procede whaȝ this was do, 960
 There were iiij lordes came oȝ to the kyng^t,
 Desireng^t hym on huntyng^t for to goo,
 fluȝ ontrewly ther with ymagenyng^t ; 963
 To ther desire the kyng^t was welewillyng^t,
 So fourth oȝ huntyng^t he rode certeynly,
 The iiij lordes with hym in companye, 966 While the king
was hunting with
three lords
- And ij Squyers, myȝ Auctour tellith me ; 967
 And while he was most besy in his game,
 This fals Stiward had goten the Citee,
 The whiche was callid parcyntyȝ be name, 970 the Steward took
the city
 And made hym self proclamed in the same
 Aȝ openly bothe kyng^t and souereyn,
 Ther was no man that durst saye ther ageyn. 973 and proclaimed
himself king.

¹ MS. *tresom*.² MS. *londes*.

The king heard
thereof from a
forester,

þe kyngⁱ hym self knowe noo thyngⁱ of this case, 974
Til attē last a forster came ridengⁱ ;
And, wete ye wele, so sorowfuḥ he was,
That he onnethe mygh^t speke to the kyngⁱ, 977
And ther he told hym euery maner thyngⁱ,
Of his Stiward and of his fals treasone,
And what people he hadde withynne the town. 980

and that the
three lords were
traitors also.

‘I must,’ *quod* he, ‘telle yow mynⁱ advise and entent ;
The quene is cause of this onⁱ happy case,
ffor these iij lordes arⁱ of hir Assent,
That are Abidengⁱ withⁱ you in the chase ; 984
And whanne the kyngⁱ perseyuyd hough it was,
Aḥ his huntyngⁱ was don and his besynesse,
An hevy maṇ [he was] and coumfortles. 987

In this musyngⁱ he ridetḥ furth a pase, 988
The iij lordes they mette hym on the waye :
‘Traytours,’ *quod* he, ‘god geve yow euyḥ grace
ffor yourⁱ seruice that ye haue donⁱ to me, 991
So vntrewly yourⁱ prince for to be traye,
Whiche neuer hurt nor harme onⁱ to yow ment,
I trost to god ye shaḥ it sore repent.’ 994

Aḥ his wordes they sett Att litiḥ price, 995
ffor whye they drede hym not the soth to saye :
And to the kyngⁱ [they seyde] right in this wise,
‘Take it in gre the fortune of this day.’ 998
And whanne he saw ther was nowⁱ other way,
he drow his swerd And smote onⁱ of them so,
And¹ from the grownde he mygh^t noo ferther goo, 1001

He drew his
sword and slew
one.

Butt felle downⁱ dede thenⁱ in continent. 1002
The others fled, his felawes fledde as fast as euer they mygh^t ;
The kyngⁱ sawe that, and after themⁱ he went,

¹ ? *That*.

And ouer toke them long or it was nyght. 1005 but the king
 So ferthermore to saye yow the very right, overtook
 he slew them bothe And sayde, 'traytours erante,
 Of your falshed ye shaft yow neuer avaunte.' 1008 and slew them
 too.

And vppon this he turned bak ageyn 1009
 To his squyers, whiche were right ferre behynd,
 And in this wise he dede to them complayn:
 'I have,' quod he, 'founde yow bothe trew and kynde,
 Now lak I good where with I shuld yow fynd,
 And for to counfort me now in my nede,
 I canne noo more but Ihesu be your' spede.' 1015

Whenne his squyers had hard hym thus complayn, [leaf 6]
 They answerd hym ayen in goodly wise;
 'Ser, think you not but we shaft do our' payn
 To counfort yow, and do yow suehe seruice, 1019
 As our' connyng^t And Powre may suffice,
 And though your' hart be now noo thing^t in rest,
 With goddes grace Aft shalbe for your' best.' 1022

The kyng was plesid wele with ther counfort, 1023
 And as hym thought he prayed them for to saye
 To what contre it were best to resorte,
 That for hym self he myght some what purvaye. 1026
 One of them seyde, 'lo yender lyght the waye;
 Streight to the Reme of Trace it with yow bryng^t,
 Wherein dwellyth a princee, A¹ nobyft kyng^t.' 1029 With his two
 squires
 he took his way
 to Thrace,

Toward that land he toke the waye full right, 1030
 Whiche was callid a plenteuous contre;
 Whanne he came ther, as fast as euer he² myght
 To se the kyng^t he went in certayn[t]e, 1033
 In humble³ wise, besechyng^t hym that he
 Might do hym seruice with his squyers twayne,
 In like wise as his pleasur^t wold ordeyne. 1036

¹ MS. *a A.*
 GENERYDES.

² MS. *she.*
 3

³ MS. *humbly.*

- The kyng^t was wele contente of his comyng^t, 1037
 and entered the king's service, And of *seruice* he seid he shuld not fayle ;
 What he shuld do he told hym euery thing^t,
 That myght only to his wurchippe prevaile ; 1040
 And so alway, after thought and travaile,
 God send rest and coumfort, be ye sure,
 To euery wele disposid creature. 1043
- Thus in that contre abideth stiH alway 1044
 The kyng^t of ynd, vnknowen in euery wise,
 With his ij squyers, a wayteng^t day be day
 hym for to *serue* as they made ther promys ; 1047
 And so this prince contynued in *seruice*,
 Right wel be trost and cherishid with the kyng^t,
 ffor he cowde please hym in euery thing^t. 1050
- AH that he dede was done so wittely, 1051
 his demcanyng^t was suche thorough owt the place,
 That euery man hym preysid by and by,
 And he so wele stode in the kyngges grace, 1054
 That he hym gaue, withynne a litiH space,
 Of all his lande the Stiwar[d]shepe to holde,
 and was made Steward, And full power to rewle it as he wold. 1057
- When he dede as wele as cowde be thought, 1058
 Onto the kynggez honour in certayne,
 Iustice was kept like wise as it owt,
 Ther was noman be resan myght complayne ; 1061
 And for he shuld his charge wele susteyn,
 The king gave him an Earl's land, The kyng hym gaue clerly an Erls lande,
 The whiche but late was com in to his hand. 1064
- Now of this mater a while let vs sesc 1065
 As for a tyme, And speke of queene screyne,
 That was moder on to Gencrydes,

- And hough that she hadde herd the tidenggez playn,
 hough ontrewly his fader be a trayn
 Of his lordes made after ther entente,
 he was putte owt of his land by ther Assent. 1071
- Off hym and of there sonne Gencrydes 1072
 Was vtterly her mend and all here thought ;
 And trewly to leue in hartes ease,
 That cowde she nought til that she hadde hym sought ;
 Of her estate no pleasure she ne rought,
 Saue only for to knowe the certeynte
 Of auferius the kyng where he shuld be. 1078
- And fourth with all she ganne an erle to calle, 1079
 The whiche in sothe hadde widded hir Cosyn,
 Right as the writeng^r seyth in especiaH,
 A fayre lady and next of All hir kynne ; 1082
 The Erle to truste was noo daunger in,
 ffor he was ware and wise I yow ensure,
 And therwith trew as eny creature. 1085
- She told hym All the grounde of the mater 1086
 In euery thing, and how it was be fall,
 Of auferius and of hir sonne in fere,
 And hough the kyng betrayed was withall, 1089
 ‘ Wherefore my purpose is in especiaH
 To take on me the labour and the payn,
 Where euer he were to fynd hym in certeyn.’ 1092
- Then¹ to the Erle she seid in this maner : 1093
 ‘ Ye shall here haue the rewle and gouernaunce
 Of this contre, with all my full powre ;
 My men shall be vnder your obciseaunce, 1096
 And hough it be be disteyne or chaunce,
 What euer falle, if I come not Ayen,
 Ye² shall be here both lord And souerayn.’ 1099

Sereyne
 heard how the
 king of India had
 been put out of
 his land.

and sent for an
 Earl

to take the
 rule of the
 country while
 she went in
 search of
 Auferius and
 Generydes.

¹ MS. *When*.

² MS. *he*.

- ‘Madame,’ he seid, ‘to gouerne this contre 1100
 It is noo litch thing to take in hand ;
 ffor yow it is moche bettyr thanne for me ;
 Yet neuer the lese, sithe I vnderstonde 1103
 Your’ purpose is to depart owt of the land,
 I wolle fulfille your’ pleasur’ in this ease,
 And trewly as I eanne be goddes graec.’ 1106
- Queen Sereyne
 set off,
- Now Gothe quene Sereyn fourth on hir Iurnaye, 1107
 And in hir eompany she hadde a knyght,
 A trosty man, and othe[r] squyers twaynne,
 With but few moo ther hors for to dight ; 1110
- came to India
- So to the Reme of ynd they went full right,
 And sone vppon ther labour’ and traveH
 to Parentine, To parentyne she eame with owt fayle, 1113
- A towne whiche is rehersed here by fore. 1114
 Anon’ withaH was purveyd a logging
 ffor this lady ; and, for to say yow more,
 [leaf 6, back] hire oste was sumtyme dwellyng with the kyng, 1117
 and lodged with
 the faithful
 forester,
- The same forster that brought to hym tidengge,
 Of his Stiward and of his fals treson,
 As he rode in the forest vppe and down. 1120
- As for a nyght ther toke she hir’ loggyng, 1121
 And made on calle the good man of the plaee,
 ‘Good ser,’ quod she, ‘telle me where is the kyng ;
 I haue grete nede,’ quod she, ‘on to his graee. 1124
 Sumtyme a lady weH att ease I was,
 And now be foree,’ quod she, ‘siehe is my ehaunee,
 I am putte ow[t] of myn enheritaunee.’ 1127
- ‘Madame,’ quod he, ‘here is noo remedy : 1128
 The kyng suerly is putte owt of his right
 By grete tresone, I saye yow eertenly,

- By his Stiward and by the quenys myght, 1131
 Whiche I may soore repent bothe day and nyght;
 ffor now A dayis I lese all that I wanne,
 Where here before I was¹ a threfty man. 1134
- Wherfor to hym I wil, this is noo naye, 1135 whom she
 Where euer he be, I say yow eertaynly.' prevailed upon
 Thanne sayd the quene, 'good ser, I yow pray,
 That ye wil come with me in companye; 1138 to come in search
 hym for to fynd I purpose vtterly, of the king.
 And I shaH paye your' costez euery dele.'
 Quod he, 'madame, I gre me wele 1141
- In your' presenee to traveH day by day.' 1142
 So on the morow departed quene Sereyne, On the morrow
 As erly as she eowde on hir Iurnay, they departed
 With hir to goo the forster was right fayn. 1145
 So many dayes she laboryd certayn,
 That of the Reame of Traee she had a sight, for Thrace,
 And thederward they toke the wey full right. 1148
- When they came ther the[y] sawe a faire cite, 1149 and came to
 As full a pepil as it eowde suffice, a fair city
 The fayre Reuer grete pleasur' for to see,
 With shippez grete of dyuerce merchaundise, 1152
 All goodly thing that eny eowde wele devise;
 And as the Story makith remembraunee, of which Auferius
 kyng Auferius had ther the gouernaunee. 1155 was governor.
- And ther he was purposing to Abyde, 1156
 As for A tyme for materys for the kyng:
 The quene Sereyn was be the Ryuers side The queen lodged
 Right Wele loggid, and whan she hadde tideng' 1159 by the river side.
 A[nd] trew knowlage of Auferius the kyng,
 hough he but late was come to the Citee,
 God vowe full wele therof apayed was she. 1162

¹ MS. *wis*.

- For hir' disporte she goth to take the Ayre, 1163
 And to the Reueres side she ganne hir dresse ;
 Ther was a brygge full strongly made and fayre,
 And ther she sawe, myn Auctour doth witnesse, 1166
 iij lavenders ded all ther besynesse
 A sherte to wassh ; thanne seid she to them iij,
 ' What do ye here, fayre susters myn ? ' quod she.
- On the bridge
 she saw three
 lavenders
 washing a shirt.
- They told her
 they had been
 about it for
 two years.
- Quod on of them, ' that were good to be knowe, 1170
 It is a wonder wark withouten doubt ;
 We wassh a shirte, and euer shaft I trow,
 ffor this ij yere we haue ben it about, 1173
 And yet we cannot gete the spotte[s] owte,
 Wherefore they calle vs noo good lauenders,
 And we haue vsid it thus many yerez.' 1176
- She took it
 from them
- ' Shewe me y^e shirte,' thanne seid the quene Sereyn,
 ' And I shaft se what I shaft do ther to :
 Whanne I haue do, ye shaft haue it ageyn,
 And do ther with what ye list to do.' 1180
- and washed it
 clean,
- She toke the Shirte withoute wordes moo,
 And wesht it onys and ryneshed it so clene,
 That afterward was noo spotte on it seem. 1183
- When she had don, she toke it them ageyn, 1184
 Or tyme that she departed fro the place ;
 To hir logging went the quene Sereyn,
 The lavenders hadde wonder of that case, 1187
 They mused sore and mervelid how it was :
 And home they went the women euerychon,
 Whanne it was drye they bare it fourth anon. 1190
- and returned
 to her lodging.
 The lavenders
 wondered,
- To auferius the kyng where as he laye, 1191
 In a casteH full goodly to behold ;
 And whanne he sawe his shirt in that aray,
- and took the
 shirt to Auferius,

- Withoute spotte, he beganne to be cold, 1194 who called to
To thynk hough that a good old man hym told, mind what the
Bothe of [the] shirte and other thingez aH, old man had
Whiche sith that tyme fuH trewly hath be faH. 1197 told him.
- The same forster that came with quene Sereyn, 1198 The forester
To the eastiH he toke the way fuH right, who came with
To se his lord, god wote, he was fuH fayn. the queen went
Whanne he came ther of hym he hadde a sight, 1201 to the castle
- And spake to hym as sone as euer he myght ;
The kyng hym knew, wherof he was fuH glad,
Not withstondeng he fond hym passyng sadde. 1204 and found the
king sad.
- ‘Ser, if it please your’ lordshippe,’ thanne quod he, ‘Sir,’ said he,
‘I yow beseeche teH me your’ heuynesse : ‘why is this
To wete yow in this plight it grevith me, heaviness ?’
ffor if I myght I wold it fayne redresse ; 1208
And oftentymes it hath be sene expresse,
In grete materys, withouten eny fayle,
A sympiH mannys counceH may prevayle.’ 1211
- To hym Ayen seid Auferius the kyng ; 1212 The king
‘I knowe your’ trowth, and soo hath doon Alway,
And for to sey yow [sothe] withoute feyneng,
AH this is come to me sithe yester day, 1215
And hough and in what wise I shaH yow saye :’
And so fourth he told of quene Sereyn, told him of queen
And hough a child was gote betwix them twayne, 1218 Sereyn,
[leaf 7]
- And of his shert where on hir¹ terys felle, 1219 and of her tears
That non shuld wassh them owt saue only she : on his shirt which
‘Now is it elene, whiche lekith me fuH ille, none but herself
ffor thus I thynk It canne non other be ; 1222 could wash out.
- But she is dede in very certente.’
‘Nay,’ quod he, ‘ser, I trow it be not soo, ‘But she is dead.’
ye shaH here better tydengez or ye goo. 1225 ‘Nay, Sir,

¹ MS. *his*. But see ll. 162, 193.

- I saw a fair lady wash a shirt by the river's side.
- I saw but late vppon the Ryueres side 1226
 One wassh a shert, I wote not whose it is.
 Whanne he¹ hard that he wold not long^t abide
 But askid more, 'now telle me who did this,' 1229
Quod auferius, 'so haue ye Ioye and blysse.'
 'A fayre lady,' *quod* he, 'I yow ensure,
 And for to chese a goodly creature. 1232
- I came with her out of India to seek you.'
- I came with hir owt of the Reme of ynd, 1233
 And atte myn howse ther toke she² hir loggyng^t;
 She askid me where that she shuld yow fynde,
 And I told hir I hadd no knowlaehyng^t; 1236
 So fourth she went and left aH other thing,
 At a venture your welefare for to see,
 And so came I with hir to this citee.' 1239
- 'Now, help me to see her,' said Auferius.
- 'Now, for my loue, helpe that I may hir see 1240
 In en wise,' *quod* Auferius the kyng;
 'ffor I canne think right wele that it is she,
 Whom that I loue aboue aH other thing.' 1243
 The forster seid, '*ser*, on to hir loggyng,
 When euer it please yow, I shaH be your gyde;
 ffor she is here by vppon the Ryueres side.' 1246
- Without delay he went to her lodging.
- In this mater ther was no more to saye, 1247
 No lenger avise nor lenger abyding,
 Butt furth he rideth vppon his hakeney,
 Vppon the Reuerys side to hir logging^t: 1250
 And whanne she had knowlaeche of his comyng^t,
 Remembryng^t hough that she shuld hym see,
 Wete ye right wele a glad woman was she. 1253
- When she saw him
- When he was come and knewe that it was she, 1254
 ffor very glad he wist not what to saye;
 Whenne she hym sawe it wold non other be,
- ¹ MS. *she*. ² MS. *che*.

- Butt furth with aH in swounyng¹ ther she¹ lay. 1257 she fell down in
As sone as he hir sawe in that arraye, a swoon.
God wote he was an hevy man¹ therfore,
And ther with [all] abisshid more and more. 1260
- Yet Atte last full Ientilly he went, 1261
And toke hir in his armys for sertayn,
hir to eommfort he did aH his intent ;
With that she came vnto hir self ageyn. 1264
Thanne was ther ioye betwix them¹ twayn,
ffor to telle yow aH it were a wonder,
And ofte they kist or they wold¹ part A sonder. 1267
- Thanne was ther not ferre owt of the Citee 1268 Not far from the
A fayre easteH, and thederward he went city was a fair
Owt of the Citee, not² ferre past ij myle or iij, castle.
That was his owen¹ att his eomaundment. 1271
Whanne [he] came ther for moeche people he sent, He sends for
The whiche held of his lordshippe and fraunehesse,
That *thei* shuld come to hym in eny wise. 1274
- And so they dede meeche people in eertayn¹ ; ¹ 1275
Whanne they were come he told them¹ aH the case,
Desireng¹ them¹ to goo for quene Sereyne Sereyne
To the Citee, and bryng hir¹ to this plaee ; 1278 thither,
ffor he purposith sone, with goddes graee,
In as short tyme as he cowde wele devise,
hir for to wedde in honorabiH wise. 1281 that he might
marry her.
- To this easteH they came with quene Sereyn¹, 1282
Right wele a compayned in euery wise,
Of hir eomyng¹ the peopiH were full fayn,
And offeryd hir right lowly ther *seruice* ; 1285
Atte hir pleasur¹ and atte hir owyn devise,
In that easteH she tared for to rest,
Onto the tyme they purvayed for the fest. 1288

¹ MS. *se*.² MS. *nor*.

Meanwhile the king fell sick	In this meane while, the kynges massenger	1289
	To Auferius he came withoute fey[n]ing ^t .	
	Curlus he high ^t and seid in this maner :	
	‘My lord,’ <i>quod</i> he, ‘ye must come to the kyng ^t	1292
	In aH the hast, and make noo taryng ^t ;	
	I drede me sore he may not long endure,	
	ffor he is passyng seke I yow ensure.’	1295
	When Auferius the kyng herd that he saide,	1296
	AH sodenly he waxhid bothe pale and wanne ;	
	ffurth on his waye to ride he hym purvayde	
	Vnto the kyng As fast as euer he canne,	1299
	And wete ye wiH he was an hevy man :	
	ffor by the tyme he came vnto that place,	
and died	The kyng was dede, whiche was a hevy case.	1302
	For hym was made grete ordenaunce I yow ensure ;	
	The peopiH wept, ther hertys were fuH sore,	
	And for to purvaye for his sepulture	
	They besyed them echon, bothe lesse and more,	1306
	Thanne was ther made an ordenaunce therfore,	
	ffuH rially wiH aH maner seruice ;	
	As feH to his estate in euery wise.	1309
	W[i]thyne a while after aH this was do,	1310
	A non ther was callid a parlement,	
	By Auferius and other lordis moo,	
	ffully concludid AH by on Assent,	1313
without heir.	Be cause the kyng left non of his disente,	
	Nor of his blode of that land to be kyng ^t ,	
	To chese them on And lefe aH other thing ^t .	1316
The parliament	And whanne they were Assemelyd euerychone,	1317
	And them Advised them wele in euery thing ^t ;	
	They were fully Accordid aH in one,	

- That Auferius suerly shuld be ther kyng^t : 1320 chose Auferius
he was to them so trew And so loving, to succeed him.
And so rightwise in euery Iugement, [leaf 7, back]
That so able was now to ther entent. 1323
- And shortly to procede in this mater, 1324
They chase hym kyng^t by voice of the land,
The lordes and the Ientilles aH in feere,
To hym dede homage as I vnderstonde, 1327
With fulH promes ther feithes in his hand,
Atte aH seasones to hym to owe ther seruice,
And hym obeyed in eny maner wise. 1330
- Whanne this was do he sent for quene Sereyne, 1331
And in as goodly hast as it myght be,
The mariage was made be twix them twayn,
With grete honour and grete solempnite, 1334 The marriage
So grete a gaderyng^t was neuer in that contre ; betwixt him and
ffor to that fest he bedde his lordes eueryhone, Queen Sereyne,
Theder thei came and ladys many on. 1337
- And whanne the fest was aH to geder don, 1338
Not long after withynne a liteH space,
The quene Sereyne was with childe fulH sone
And whanne tyme came, as god wiH geve hir grace, and in due
She bare a sonne, a threfte childe he was ; time she bare a
And whanne that he was growe to mannys age, son,
he was callid IsmaeH the Savage : 1344 Ismael the
Savage.
- For he was wild in aH his demening^t, 1345
Vnto the tyme he drew to more sadnesse,
Thanne afterward he was withoute feyning^t
A nobyH knyght, the story doth witnesse : 1348
Now late vs thenne speke of Generydes,
What payn he hadde for fayre clarionas, Now let vs
By grete envy of cursid malichias. 1351 Generydes.

- One morning he
went to speak
with his lady. ~ In a mornyng^t arose Generydes, 1352
To his lady he toke the way fuH right,
To speke with hir as for his hartys ease ;
This Malichias of hym he had a sight, 1355
And after hym, as fast as euer he myght,
ffuH secretly he goth hym to aspye,
hym for to do sum shame and velanye. 1358
- Malichias hid
in a tree to
hear what
they said, And to perfourme aH his purpose in dede, 1359
Vppe in a tree he stode fuH secretly,
That what they seid therof he toke good heede,
and told the
Sultan all that
he could say to And to the Sowdon told it by and by : 1362
And where as he dede noo thyng^t ellys trewly,
But spake with hir to telle hir^t his entente,
he hym reportid wers thanne euer he ment, 1365
- her dishonour. To hir dishonour aH that he cowde say. 1366
The Sultan
sware they
should die, Whanne the Sowdon had knowlage of this ease,
he sware his othe ther was non other waye,
Butt bothe they shuld be dede be goddes grace. 1369
To hym anon thanne sayde Malichias,
' Of your' doughter ye may not avenge yow soo,
But as for hym ye wote what is to do.' 1372
- but could not
kill Generydes
for fear of the
people. Yet in his wraught this thought he euer amongt, 1373
If he shuld avenge hym sodenly,
AH his pepiH wold say he did hym wrongt,
Withoute Iustice to cause hym so to dye ; 1376
And to eschew the Rumber and the crye,
his purpose thanne he chaungyd aH in feere :
And Malichias was wroth in his maner, 1379
- And thought he was mystr[est]ed vtterly, 1380
Be cause the Sowdon dede not as he ment ;
ffor he was fayn to think that he shuld dye,

Butt for aH he myst of his entent,	1383	Malichias did not leave his malice
Yet in his malice he was so fervent		
he wold not leve, butt stille alway opece ¹		
Dede aH that he cowde to hurt Generydes.	1386	against Generydes.
So on a tyme fuH streyght he toke the waye	1387	
To the Sowdon, and seid in this maner ;		
‘My lord,’ quod he, ‘ye leve not that I saye,		
And if it please yow my counceH for to here,	1390	
Ye shaH haue knowlache of this mater clere.’		
‘Wele thanne,’ quod he, ‘if I may fynd it soo,		
Ye shaH sone wete what I shaH do therto.’	1393	
‘In a mornynge, if it please yow to rise,’	1394	He took the Sultan one morning
Quod Malichias, ‘I canne say yow nomore,		
But ² ye shaH se your ³ self in euery wise		
The very trougth, as I haue seid before ;	1397	
And wete ye wiH it grevith me fuH soore,		
That ye shuld me mystrest by eny waye,		
I wold not that for more thanne I wold saye.’	1400	
The ³ Sowdon sayde, ‘as towehyng this mater,	1401	
I wolle gladly be after your ³ avise.’		
Soo on a day the wedder was fuH clere,		
In a mornynge the Sowdon ganne to rise,	1404	
As erly as he cowde in eny wise ;		
ffurth on he goth, and with hym Maliehias,		
Streight to the chaunbour of Clarionas.	1407	to the chamber of Clarionas,
Save Malichias with hym ther was noo moo,	1408	
Atte A wyndow they stode hym to Aspye.		where they watched the lovers from a window.
Generydes, as he was wont to do,		
ffuH sone after he came fuH secretly,	1411	
As oft tyme As he eame, yet trewly		
he mystrestid neuer erthely man be fore,		Generydes was sad
Yet As he Stode he Seighed wonder soore.	1414	

¹ MS. *opece*. Perhaps we should read *alway stille opece*.² MS. *Be*.³ MS. *She*.

- To hym̃ anoñ thanne seid Clarionas, 1415
 ‘Ye seigh̃ gretly, I *prae* yow telle me why.’
 ‘Madame,’ *quod* he, ‘for eertayñ it was,
 for a dream he had dreamt of Malichias, This nygh̃t I hadde a wonder dreme trewly 1418
 Of Malichias ; noo mo but¹ he And I
 Were in A place, this is the eerteyñ[te],
 And of my clothez ther he robbid me. 1421
- I drew my swerd to reskewe hym̃ ageyñ, 1422
 Butt in that ease I mygh̃t not haue my wiłł,
 [leaf 8] The Sowdoñ came and east me downe, I wene,
 In a depe pitte, whiche grevid me full ih̃t : 1425
 With that my swerd owt of myñ hand it fell̃
 Oñ Malichias and gave hym̃ suche a wounde
 Vppoñ the hede that downe he felle to the grownde.
- Yet cowde I not eskape owt of the pitte, 1429
 ffor ałł the craft that I cowde wele devise ;
 Butt atte last, as god wold fortune it,
 Ye ałł only, and by your̃ interprise, 1432
 Owt of daunger ye eausid me to rise.’
 To hym̃ anone thanne seid clarionas,
 ‘I am a ferde,’ *quod* she, ‘of Malichias ; 1435
- Clarionas also had had a dream. For I dremyd that he wold haue me slayñ, 1436
 Save it lay not in his powere to do,
 ffor he purposith̃ by some maner trayñ,
 Whanne he may see a tyme to shew vs woo.’ 1439
- When they had spoken And whanne thei had to geder spokēñ soo,
 Supposyng̃ wele that ałł had beñ in peee,
 the Sultan took Generydes The Sowdoñ came and toke Generydes, 1442
- In grete anger rebukyng̃ hym̃ full soore, 1443
 And chargid Malichias in ałł the hast
 To bynd hym̃ fast, and also ferthermore

¹ MS. *be*.

- That he in prison depe he shuld be cast, 1446 and ordered
 Ther to abide while that his lyff may last ; him to be put
 Or ellys he shuld by¹ Maliehias avise in prison.
- Be putte to deth in a right shamefuH wise. 1449
- For his doughter he sent fuH hastely, 1450 His daughter he
 And in his hete gave hir' a grete reпреff, called by a
 And eallid hir, god wote, right shamefully shameful name.
- AH other wise thanne he cowde make the preff: 1453
- And in his hert it was an vtter greff,
 ffor he demyd on hir that she ne sought,²
 Whiche afterward fuH gretely hym for thought. 1456
- Now Generydes gothi with Maliehias, 1457 Generydes was
 his handes bounden as a prisonere, put in a tower,
- Streight to a towre wherein the prison was ;
 And hym delyueryd onto Anasore, 1460 under the
 A gentiH knyght keping the prison ther, charge of
 To kepe hym hard and strayte in his office, Anasore,
- Withoute favour' in eny maner wise. 1463
- And for to shew his malys vtterly, 1464
 With strong yrons this cursed Maliehias
 he feteryd hym, and that soo greuously
 The blode sprange owt in many dyuerse places ;³ 1467
 And with an hevy hammer that ther was,
 On his leggyes so sore he lette hym falle,
 Att enery tyme he brake the skynne with aH. 1470
- Thanne Anasar' was wrothe in his maner, 1471
 And in this wise seid to Maliehias,
 'Ye do me wrong, sithe I am keper' here,
 To do that is myn office in this case ; 1474
 ffor his offene⁴ or how that [euer] it was,
 It is agayn aH reson in eertayne,
 To do [to] hym this importabiH payn.' 1477

¹ MS. *be by*. ² So MS. ; perhaps for *that he ne ought*.³ So MS. ; perhaps for *place*.⁴ MS. *office*.

- For noo prayer yet wold he neuer sece, 1478
 But trewely did as he did before :
 Longer suffer myght not Generydes,
 Nor nought he wold thow he shuld die¹ *therefore*, 1481
 And with his fist he smote hym wonder soore,
 That bothe his eyne owt of his hede ganne falle,
 And sodenly he died furth withaH. 1484
- At length
 Generydes smote
 him that he died.
 And whanne the keper sawe that he was dede, 1485
 Thanne was he sory for Generydes ;
 If it were knowen that he were don to ded,
 The Sowdon wold be wroth withouten lese, 1488
 Owt of reason that noman cowde hym sese :
 Wherefore he founde a meane to his entente,
 By there avise that were with hym present. 1491
- How² Malichias whanne he came fro the towre, 1492
 And don that the Sowdon bad hym do,
 his fete fayled in vnhappy oure,
 And down he felle and brake his nek in ij ; 1495
 And for to make a preff that it was soo,
 They toke hym vppe and layde hym soft and fayr,
 Down Atte lowest foote of all the stayre. 1498
- Thus were they all accordyd eueryehone, 1499
 Generydes to quyte all vtterly ;
 Among them all ther was on,
 A knyght that alway was in companye 1502
 With anasor, and lovyd hym trewly ;
 And as he wold the toder wold the same
 In euery thing, and dareH was his name. 1505
- In this mater he was chef of counceH 1506
 With anasor to helpe Generydes :
 he bad hym goo and in no wise to fayle

¹ MS. *did*.² MS. *Now*.

- To the Sowdon, and telle hym the processe, 1509 and Anasore
And he wold be¹ on of his cheff wisse.
Thanne anosor ther as the Sowdon was
fuh sone he went, and told hym all the case. 1512
went to tell the
Sultan,
- Yet or [that] he departyd was and gone, 1513
fuh streyte he went vnto Generydes,
And of his bandis losed hym anon,
That he somewhat myght be att his hartes ease. 1516
first having
loosed Generydes.
- ffor though² ther were a noyse among the prese,
Yet wist he wele as for fayre Clarionas,
That he was no thing³ guilty in that case. 1519
- Furth in his waye goth now the Chastelyn, 1520
And to the Sowdon saide in this maner :
'I shaH yow telle of a ventur' certeyn, He tells his tale,
And that a strange, if it please yow to here, 1523
hough Malichias, withynne my office here,
Toke vppon hym as for Generydes
AHH that ye bad me do withoute lease. 1526
- And ouer that he dede fuh trewely, 1527
With strong Irons and feteryd hym fuh sore,³
The blode ranne owt and that fuh petevously ;
Whanne he had don, to seye yow ferthermore, 1530 [leaf 8, back]
Downne of the grescs he felle the hede before,
And brake his nek, it myght non other be,
ffor this he died in very certeynte.' 1533
- Whanne the Sowdon hard this, I yow be high 1534 and the Sultan
Ther myght no man be wrother thanne was he, was wroth and
'What, serys !' he seith, 'this goth not AHH a right : suspicious,
Thow Chastelyn, in what wise may this be ? 1537
AHH this is done but for a sotilte,
To hide your falshede vnder a coverture,
But he shaH dye to morow be ye sure.' 1540

¹ MS. *he*.
GENERYDES.

² MS. *thought*.
4

³ MS. *fast*.

To hym anon answered the Chastelyn; 1541
 'Ser, if it please your' lordshepe for to here,
 ffor your' wurchippe yow most your' self reteyne,
 And take a good avise in this mater, 1544
 See that your' grounde be very good and clere,
 To your' entente accordeng^t to the same,
 Or ellys it is but slaunder to your' name.' 1547

The more he spak the more he lost his payn; 1548
 Whanne Anasar^t saw that he went his wey:
 The Sowden callid fourth his chaumberleyn,
 'Goo,' *quod* he, 'as fast as euer ye may, 1551
 And see that Malichias in good arraye
 Be caryed thens, ther as his body is,
 To the temple in honorabiH wise.' 1554

and ordered
 Malichias to be
 buried.

His body was
 found torn to
 pieces by hounds.

Now goth the chaumberleyn furth on his way, 1555
 With aH the hoole howse att his comaundment,
 And whanne they came ther as the body lay,
 It for to bery after ther entent, 1558
 Ther they founde it with hundes alto rent,
 Some rede, some blak, and some of dyuerse hude,
 Ther cowde no man nowber the multitude. 1561

Eche of them bare a pece away, 1562
 Of flessH ne boon ther was no thyng behynd;
 The chammblerleyn whanne he sawe that arraye,
 he went furth sore musyng in his mynde, 1565
 And told the Sowdon as he shuld it fynde;
 In euery thyng thanne was he grevid soore,
 And more wrother thanne he was before. 1568

The Sultan was
 more wroth,

Thanne for his lordes¹ furth with aH he sent, 1569
 That they² shuld come withoute eny fayle:
 Whanne they were come anon incontynent,

¹ MS. *lordes thanne*.

² MS. *he*.

- Generydes was brought owt of the Iayle, 1572 and sent for
ffull sore aferd as it was noo mervall;
Generydes,
And ther he stode before them euerychone,
Right in this wise the Sowdon sayde anon: 1575
- ‘This felaw her, this yong man that ye see, 1576 whom he accused
Generydes,’ he saide, ‘that is his name;
before his lords
he was suerly the man that plesid me,
Wenyng to me that he hadde be the same; 1579
Butte now he hath don me an vtter shame,
ffor he hath done my doughter villanye,
of seducing his
And layne be hir I sey yow certenly. 1582 daughter.
- I saw hym speke with hir in secrete wise, 1583
Wherefore I wote it may non other be;
And I shaH wele aquyte hym his seruice,
ffor he shaH dye therfore, now trostith me; 1586
That other may ensampyH take and see,
To be ware how they in suche case
here afterward offende in eny place.’ 1589
- With that anon answerd Generides: 1590
‘My lord,’ quod he, ‘if ye cause me to dye,
Generydes offered
Ye do me wrong, I take god to my witness;
to prove this
And wele I wote ther is no reasone whye, 1593 false,
ffor in this poynt I am no thyng guilty,
And that I shaH make good, I yow ensure,
On knyght or Squyer whiH my lyff endure.’ 1596
- Whanne the Sowdon had hard aH that he seid; 1597
‘Trowist thu to fyght,’ quod he, ‘as in this case?
Nay think it not, thy best shaH sone be layde,
ffor thou shalt [dye] to morow withoute grace, 1600
And what that euer be withynne this place,
but the Sultan
That wolle for the entrete in eny wise, urged his lords
he shaH not spede I yow promysse. 1603

- to condemn him
to death. Wherefore I wold ye gave your' full assent 1604
Among yow all this processe to fulfille,
Accordeng^t plenly to that Iugement.'
- All were silent
but Anasore And ther withall the lordes were ful stille, 1607
And seid noo word neyther good nee ill,
Thanne Atte last the Chastelyn alone,
like as a knyght spake afore them euerychone: 1610
- 'My lordes All,' he seid, 'hough may this be? 1611
This is a thyng whiche I neuer sawe,
The Sowdon doth vs wrong, As thinkith me,
To make vs deme a man withoute lawe; 1614
And for my part, for favour or for awe,
I shall neuer assent to this mater,
Consideryng what he hath proferyd her.' 1617
- Thanne was the Sowdon owt of pacience 1618
With Anasore, And spake full hastily;
'Ye are,' *quod* he, 'to bold in my presence,
Ayenst my will to speke so vtterly, 1621
It is noo sygne of very loue trewly,
Not withstondeng I wote wele what ye mene,
But troste me wele it goo not as ye wene.' 1624
- and Darell, who
took the part of
Generydes. Thanne came Darell and putt hym self in prese, 1625
Where here be fore rehersed is by name,
Of nobyH kynne he was withouten lese,
The more bolder he was to take a blame 1628
In this mater aceordyng^t to the same;
And in this wise he seid be fore them all,
And to the Sowdon in especiaH: 1631
- 'As for my felawe her, the Chastelayn, 1632
I haue mervell that he rebukith hym soo;
[leaf 9] And wele I wote that he hath don his payn,

- ffor your' pleasur' in aH that he cowde doo, 1635
 And vtterly this wiH I saye also,
 he that wiH do Generydes a shame,
 I yow ensure he shaH do me the same.' 1638
- Thanne to the Sowdon furth with aH they went, 1639 The lords then
prayed the
Sultan to
respite the
judgment.
 The lordes and the knyghtes eueryehone,
 And prayed hym to respite the Iugement,
 ffor certenly his wurehippe laye ther on; 1642
 And wele they wist that reson was ther [n]on),
 A man to deme, in eny maner ease,
 Withoute lawe and in so litil space. 1645
- The Sowdon was as wrothe as he myght be, 1646 The Sultan
was wroth,
 That in noo wise he wist not what to saye ;
 Thanne was ther on), the Story tellith me,
 A knyght whiche hadde be with hym many a day,
 And wele cheryshed with hym he was Alway, but was pre-
vailed upon by
Lucas,
 like as he wold the Sowdon wold the same
 In euery thyng, and Lucas was his name. 1652
- Vnto the Sowdon he seid thus anon : 1653
 ' Me think, *ser*, as ferre as I eanne fele,
 These lordes and these knyghtes eueryehone
 In this mater they haue not seyde but wele, 1656
 hasty proeesse wiH shende it euery dele,
 Avise yow wele and do be good eounceH,
 And that shaH gretly yow honour and provaile.' 1659
- Whanne the Sowdon had hard hym euery dele, 1660
 Withynne a while he was right temperate,
 Of aH his wordes he remembryd wele,
 And with hym self he was half atte debate ; 1663
 he thought he wold noo more be obstenate,
 And gaue them respite be fore them euerychon), and gave a
respite of xxi
days.
 Tilt one and xx^{ti} dayes were come and goon. 1666

- Therof was aH the felashepe fuH fayn), 1667
 And wele content that he hadde suche [grace]
 Generydes went to prisone went ayeyn),
 Generydes went back to prison,
 Atte hartes case meche better thanne he was ; 1670
 ffor Anasore hadde graunt hym aH the place
 ffor his Disporte, to take it as hym list,
 In hym he hadde no maner of mystrest. 1673
- Whille he was stille in prisone a bideng', 1674
 his thought was aH on Clarionas ;
 And euer in his mynd remembryng',
 and thought of Clarionas.
 how fayre¹ of hewe and womanly she was ; 1677
 And if he myght stonde in so good a case,
 hir to reioyse and haue hir atte his wiss',
 Of aH his payne he wold not sett a rissh. 1680
- She was vppe on A chaunbyr stiH opece, 1681
 And euery man that passid to and fro
 She askyd fast aftur Generydes,
 In very trougth if he were dede or noo ; 1684
 They seid he was ageyn to prisone goo,
 And was a lyue they knewe it for certayn,
 The whiche some what conforte[d] hir Ayeyn). 1687
- The Sowdon charge[d] them to kepe the day, 1688
 In eny wise what thing that euer faH :
 And so they dede his pleasure to obeye,
 On the day fixed
 Theder they came ichon in generaH ; 1691
 Thannc was the place to litiH for them aH,
 Wherefore the Sowdon anon dede ordeyne
 A larger place aH owt vppon the playn). 1694
- And for to determytte this mater, 1695
 Generydes was brought out of the gaile ;
 Generydes was brought out of prison,
 The Sowdon thanne rehersed thanne in fere

¹ MS. *good fayre*.

- his displeasur' withoute eny fayle, 1698 and the Sultan
 hough he myght best to his entente prevaile ; related his
 And sodenly, among them euerychone, displeasure,
 furth with ther came a massanger anon, 1701
- In hast[y] wise as fast as he cowde ride, 1702
 And to the Sowdon he seid, right in this wise :
 'I am not come my message for to hide, when a mes-
 But boldly for to telle you myn avise. 1705 senger came
 Ther is a kyng not ferre from thise partise, from the King
 In all contres ther as men riden and goon,
 Vnder hevyn so grete ther levith non. 1708
- Kyng of Egipte he is, the soth to saye, 1709 of Egypt,
 And haue mervell, sithe ye be hold soo wise,
 That ye so long haue putte it in delaye,
 And come not furth to offer your' seruice ; 1712
 Wherefore he wil that ye in eny wise
 Yeld vppe your' land att his comaund[e]ment,
 And vtterly obey to his entent : 1715 demanding the
 Sultan's land,
- And for to take avise in this mater, 1716
 he grauntith yow a moneth day of space,
 And by that day to geve a playn answerc,
 As ye wil be demcanyd in this case ; 1719
 And your' doughter also elarionas, and his daughter.
 I counceit yow to send hir to the kyng,
 ffor your' ease and weelfare in tyme comyng.' 1722
- Whanne he hadde seid his massage all in feere, 1723
 The Sowdon was displeasid for certayn ;
 And furth with all he chargid Anasar',
 To take with hym Generydes ayein, 1726
 And ther to kepe hym suerly on A payn,
 ffor he myght not procede furmabely,
 Because the tidynges came so hastely. 1729

- ‘ Now telle what maner a man is he,’ 1730
 Seid the Sowdon, ‘ that is of suehe powre ;
 [leaf 9, back] And sey me now the very eertente.’
 To hym anon thanne seid the Massenger, 1733
 ‘ If it please yow to wete, that ye shaH here :
 Belen the Bold is the King of Egypt’s name. And belen the bold his name is ouer aH,
 And kyng of kyngges now men do hym ealle ; 1736
 His loggyng is vppon a fayre Ryuer, 1737
 Callid teger, not ferre owt of this eost ;
 And there he lith with right a grete powre,
 his owne persone and also aH his oste ; 1740
 he wiH that it be knowen to litiH ¹ And most,
 That fro that grownde he wiH nott part Away,
 TiH he haue redy word what ye ² wiH saye.’ 1743
 The Sultan refused his daughter,
 The Sowdon thanne gave Answere furth with aH, 1744
 And in this wise seid to the massanger ;
 ‘ Of my doughter, as for the prineipaH,
 I lete yow wete, for pleasur’ nee for fere 1747
 Think not ther on, for she shaH not come ther,
 Nother in no nother plaee I yow ensure,
 The whiche myghT sownne onto here dishonour. 1750
 and for the rest of the message,
 As for the Remenaunte of your’ message, 1751
 Be cause I wiH not lette yow of your’ waye,
 Whanne euer ye wiH ye may take your’ viage,
 ffor your’ Answere I wiH that ye shaH sey, 1754
 he would answer it in a month.
 I wiH send word withynne a moneth day
 Vnto your’ prinee, where euer he be present,
 AH vtterly the fyne of myn entent.’ 1757
 The messenger left, and the Sultan consulted his lords,
 The massanger anon he toke his leve, 1758
 And furth he went whanne he hadde his answer.
 The Sowdon anon he ganne his eounceH to meve

¹ MS. *likill*.² MS. *he*.

Of that mater that towchid hymⁿ soo nere, 1761
 And Askid ther avise in this mater,
 Not onⁿ nor twayne, but a^{ll} in genera^{ll},
 Thanne spake *ser* Dare^{ll}, and Answerd furth *with* A^{ll} :

‘ These lordes here, that benⁿ of *your* counce^{ll} 1765
 And my falow, and I be on Assent
 In that mater to se what may *prevaile*,
 As we seme ¹ best we sha^{ll} shewe our^l entent.’ 1768
 Thanne spake lucas anonⁿ encontinent,
 ‘ Ser, dought ye not,’ *quod* he, ‘ in this case
 It sha^{ll} be purvayde fore with goddes *grace* ; 1771

Sithe tyme of mend this land ded neuer soo, 1772
 And as for vs we wi^{ll} not [now] begynne.’ who advised
him to resist
Belen,
 his lordes a^{ll} Assentid wele therto,
 And thought that lucas seid right wele therin. 1775
 ‘ We trost,’ *quod* they, ‘ the victory for to wynne,
 Vpponⁿ that prince so myghti in his strength,
 Or ij monethys be fully drawe o length. 1778

But this we wi^{ll} require yow euerychone, 1779
 To shew your^l grace on to Generydes ; and to release
Generydes.
 ffor wele we wote offence he hath do non),
 Vs thynk he shuld the soner haue his pece ; 1782
 We yow beseche your rancour for to sese,²
 ffor att this tyme he may do good *seruice*,
 And suche as sha^{ll} please yow in euery wise. 1785

And in this wise, yf it please yow to here, 1786
 Be myⁿ avise ye sha^{ll} send³ for your ost :
 And these lordes that benⁿ with yow here,
 lett themⁿ send for ther menⁿ in euery cost, 1789
 In a^{ll} ther best array both lesse and most ;
 And so sha^{ll} yow, with a^{ll} your^l baronage,
 Defende your^l lande that it pay noo trewage.’ 1792

¹ So MS. ? *deme*. ² MS. *sesee*. ³ MS. *sent*.

- The Sultan The Sowdon markyd wele ther wordes aH, 1793
 And thought it was but reason that they scide.
 ‘Now, *seris*,’ *quod* he, ‘sithe yow in generaH
 ffor this young man so speeially hath prayed, 1796
 That ye desire of me shaH nott be nayed ;
 Ye may telle hym he shaH stonde in my *grace*,
 like as he dede before in eny place.’ 1799
- agrees to free
 Generydes,
 They were right glad and thankyd hym icheon, 1800
 That they for hym had sped so wele that day ;
 and Anasor
 and Darell Thanne Anasor’ and DareH went anon
 Vnto the towre where he in *prison* laye. 1803
 ‘What tydinges now,’ *quod* he, ‘I praye yow saye.’
 ‘Be of good *chere*,’ *quod* they, ‘dought ye no dele,
 Your’ pece is made, and aH shaH be right wele.’ 1806
- set him free. They toke his feters of incontenent 1807
 ffrom his leggis, and whan they had so do,
 Thanne was he glad Inow, and furth he went
 To the Sowdon as fast as he eowde goo, 1810
 With DareH and *ser* Anasor’ Also ;
 And whanne that he come to his *presens*,
 ffuH vmbely he did his Reuerence, 1813
- Generydes begs
 for the Sultan’s
 favour, And to the Sowdon seid right in this wise ; 1814
 ‘I wold beseche yow, *ser*, graunte me *your* grace,
 I neuer offendid yow in my *seruice*,
 Nother to yow nor to Clarionas. 1817
 But hir to wurehippe as my dute was
 In that that I cowde do, I yow ensure,
 As long as I in *seruice* dede indure. 1820
- And more ouer, as for the massanger, 1821
 It grevid me fuH iH to here hym speke :
 he sett his wordes in soo grete maner,

- That I wold fayn on hym haue ben wreke ; 1824
 With your licence his purpose shaH I breke,
 And if I may your pleasure vnderstonde,
 With that prowde kyng I wiH fight hand be hand. 1827
- and offers to
fight the king
of Egypt hand
to hand.
- He shaH not do your doughter dishonour, 1828
 As long as god wiH send me lyff and space ;
 Nor of his pride shaH neuer come that our
 That ye shaH paye trebute, be goddis grace, 1831
 This land shaH neuer stande in suche case ;
 And if ye geve me leve, withoute fayle
 ffor aH his strength I wiH hym onys assayle.' 1834
- [leaf 19]
- Whanne the Sowdon had hard hym sey so wiH, 1835
 ' Generydes,' quod he, ' I geue yow grace,
 AH myn eviH wiH I for geve euery deele,
 And ye to stonde in soo good a case 1838
 As euer ye dede withynne eny place ;
 ffor now I know that ye, in euery wise,
 haue contynued fuH trew in your seruice. 1841
- The Sultan
restored Gene-
rydes to favour,
- And ferthermore, withoute more dalay, 1842
 To morow sucrly I wiH make yow a knyght ;
 And for your sake an hundred more that day
 Ther shaH be made, and then with goddes myght 1845
 I shaH purvay as for the landes right,
 It to defende, and that it may be clere
 ffrom aH seruage and clene owt of daunger.' 1848
- and promised
on the morrow
to make him a
knight.
- Thanne was his thought vppon Clarionas, 1849
 Sithe he hir saughe hym thought passing long ;
 That she myght stonde in his favour and grace¹
 like as she dede, for he had don hir wrong ; 1852
 And that he cowde remembre euer among :
 Wherefore he thought hir to recompence,
 he sendith for hir to come to his presence. 1855
- He then sent
for Clarionas,

¹ MS. *his grace*.

- Thanne Anasore was chargid for to goo 1856
 Vnto the chaunbyr of fayre Clarionas,
 To bryng her furth the Sowdon bad hym soo,
 That euery man myght see withynne the place, 1859
 hough wele she stode with hym in euery case :
 And whanne she came befoore hym, for certayn,
 The Sowdon toke hir in his armys twayn. 1862
- and took her
 in his arms.
- ‘ Doughter,’ he seid, ‘ for yow I am to blame, 1863
 fuH wrongfully to me ye were accusid,
 And not gilty I wiH recorde the same,
 To say the soth it may not be refusid ; 1866
 So hold I yow aH vtterly excusid
 In euery thing¹; and here, or where ye be,
 Att AH tymes right wele come on to me.’ 1869
- Clarionas was fayn whanne this was doo, 1870
 Of hym she toke hir leve fuH curtesly ;
 Thanne was Generydes fuH glad also,
 Be cause hir pece was made so trewly : 1873
 And as she went he cast on hir his Iec,
 So as he durst, to saue hym self fro blame,
 And she ayenward Aquyte hym with the same. 1876
- Thanne was ther sone Assigned knyghtez twayn 1877
 To bryng hir to hir chaumber furth with AH,
 And on the morow the Sowdon for certayn
 With his lordes he come in to the haH, 1880
 And ther anone [among] his kuyghtez aH,
 And, soth to say, the first of eny man
 Generydes the order ther beganne. 1883
- Generydes the
 first of any.
- They took
 their leave,
 and went to
 make ready.
- The lordes toke ther leve on be on, 1884
 To make them rely atte ther owyn devise ;
 The flfischepe departid euerychon

¹ MS. *think*.

- To goo and come ageyn to ther *seruice*, 1887
 And euery man in defensable wise,
 hors and harnes withoute eny more delay,
 To muster withynne a moneth day. 1890
- Furst the Sowdon sent his letters owt, 1891
 With massengers as fast as they cowde ride, The Sultan sent letters to the kings and princes
 To kynges and to princes aȝt aboutȝt,
 The nexst that were marching on euery side, 1894
 Desireng them armour to provide
 And in aȝt goodly hast for them he sende ¹
 To come to hym his contre to defende. 1897 to help him.
- These *lettres* came on to these princez aȝt, 1898
 hym for to helpe they *grauntid* euerychone,
 Whanne they were come, furst in especiaȝt
 Croves the kyng of Arabye was on ; 1901 There came Croves, king of Arabia,
 .ij. thousand knyghtes came with hym alone,
 Be side archers a nowmbyr fuȝt notabyȝt,
 Whiche for werre Were right good men and able. 1904
- The kyng^t was welc in age I yow ensur^t, 1905
 And anasor^t his sone was for certeyn father of Anasor,
 A goodly prince and comly of stature ;
 Of his comeuȝt the Sowdon was fayn ; 1908
 Notwithistondyng it was to hym a payn
 So ferre owt of his contre to travaȝt,
 But his promesse was suche he wold not fayle. 1911
- Nexst after hym ther came owt of turkey 1912 a prince of Turkey, and his two sons,
 A myghti prince, and with hym people grete,
 A thousand helmys with hym in companye,
 O[f] his contre the best that he cowde gcte, 1915
 his sonnes bothe with hym were not ² for yete,
 And for to sey yow soȝt, and not to feyn,
 Trewly they were fuȝt scemely knygthez twayn ; 1918

¹ MS. *sent*.² MS. *not ferre*.

- Off grete wurehippe and of right nobiH fame, 1919
David and Abell, The eldest highȝt *ser* Dauid, as I rede,
The yonger sone *ser* AbeH was his name,
Whiche of his enmys ¹ had but litiH drede ; 1922
The kyng hym self was a lest man in dede,
Also he louyd wele fayre Clarionas,
Butt she hadde sette hir hert in other place. 1925
- the king of
Cesarea,
[leaf 10, back]
Cherydone,
the father of
Darell,
Thanne came the princee of Cesare sone vppon, 1926
With vij hundred knyghtes of his own lande ;
The Story seith his name was Cherydone,
And *ser* DareH his sonne was, I vnderstonde : 1929
This princee was hold full manly of his hande,
his archers and his foote men wele arrayed,
The Sowdon of hym was right wele apayd. 1932
- Obeth, king
of Sicily,
Thanne came the forthȝt, whiche was of SesiH kyng,
A wurthy princee, And Obeth was his name ;
.v. honderyd knyghtes he dede with hym bring,
And men a foote accordeng to the same ; 1936
The princee hym self of good and noble fame,
Theder to come he was right wele content,
As sone as he his lettres to hym sent. 1939
- the king of
Nicomedia,
Esaunce,
(with 3000 men as
black as coal,)
Nexst after come the kyng of Nicomede, 1940
iij. thousand men he brought on to the Citee ;
As blak as eole icheon thei ² were in dede,
Save only ther tethe ther was noo white to see, 1943
Strong men they were the story tellith it me :
Esaunce he highȝt, the story doth witnesse,
A eurtese knyght and full of gentilnes. 1946
- the king of
Ethiopia,
From Ethiopie ther came another kyng, 1947
ij thowsand knyghtes att his gouernaunce,
With ³ meeche pepiH on foote Att his leding :

¹ MS. *elmys*.² MS. *ther*.³ MS. *Whiche*.

- Thanne after came A riaH ordenaunce, 1950
 Too myghty princes with a grete pusaunce,
 ffro Masedeyn and owt of Arkadye,
 Ther cowde no man the nowmber specifie. 1953 and the princes
 of Macedon
 and Arcadia,
- Thanne came Moab, of Capadoor the kyng, 1954 Moab, the king
 of Cappadocia,
 To the Sowdon as fast as he cowde hye
 With ij knyghtes in felashepe rideng,
 Balam the tone And yeferus trewly, 1957
 The kyng of Damask and of Ermony, the kings of
 Of knyghtes wel Arrayed with spere and Shelde, Damascus and
 of Ermony,
 xv. thowsand they brought in to the feld. 1960
- Sone after come the kyng of orkenay, 1961 the king of
 Orkney, and
 In his companye ther came also after him two
 kings more,
 Another kyng in good riche Arraye ;
 And after hym ther came ij kynggez moo, 1964
 O thirde CesaH the kyng was on of thoo ;
 And what peopyH they brought among them three, and a third Cesall,
 Mynne Auctour seith it is a wonder to see. 1967
- Now haue I here rehersed in substaunce 1968
 xv kynges, As shortly as I myght, 15 kings in all,
 With ther powre and AH ther hoole pusaunce,
 Whiche was so grete, to sey yow very right, 1971
 The Cite myght resseyue them day ne nyght ; and met in a
 wood without
 the town.
 Butt vnder nethe a woode withoute the town,
 Ther was sette vppe the Sowdones pavilyon 1974 The Sultan's
 pavilion
- Vppon A playn, and made of silk and gold 1975 was set up on a
 plain,
 As richely as thei cowde wele ordeyne, with many more.
 With many moo full goodly to beholde,
 And tentys large, full riche and wele besen, 1978
 And who so had be thence a myle or twayn,
 Vppon the feld to loke or cast his Ie,
 It shuld hym seme a town or A Citee. 1981

Upon a time the Sultan went	Vppon a tyme the seaso ⁿ e was fayre, With his lordes the Sowdon toke the waye, Owt of the Cite to take the ayre, In the feld vppon a Somerys day,	1982 1985
to see the host,	And for to see the Ost in ther arraye ; Beholdyng them with countenaunce right stabiH, hym semyd they were pepiH innumerable.	 1988
and told them of the king of Egypt's demand	Thanne seid he thus vnto them euerychon, That were princes and other lordes aH, ' In this contre,' quod he, ' ther is come on, And kyng of kyngges thus he doth hym calle, Whiche thing may neuer in my reaso ⁿ e falle ; ffor ther may non be suche in dede ne thought, Butt he that fourmed aH this world of nought.	1989 1992 1995
for tribute.	Also he askid tr[i]bute of this land, Whiche may not be, what case that cuer faH. The formest ganne to speke, I vnderstonde, The kyngges sonne of turkey furth with aH ;	1996 1999
Sir Abell said,	A semely prince, ser abeH they do hym calle, Vnto the Sowdon sone he gaue ¹ answer, As these wordes he seid as ye shaH here :	 2002
the land of Persia should pay no tribute.	' As for the land of perse, this wiH I saye, It ougHt to paye noo tribute in noo wise ; Ne our' ennys shaH neuer see the day, ffor we are strongge I now I yow promys Too kepe it from aH suche maner seruice ;	2003 2006
We will meet the Egyptians in the field.	And for to make it good with spere and Sheld, Goo we to morow and mete them in the feld.	2009
	Do as ye leke, for this is my counceH ; Besechyng yow to be remembryd here, That whanne the lande of perse hath gevyn bateH,	2010

¹ MS. *gaue an*.

- Of tyme passid before in many yere, 2013
 My lord and fader hath ben) Banyere,
 And in the formest bateH for to be
 he and his ayeris claymeth it of dewte. 2016
- Also to be made constabiH of your' ost, 2017
 And the voward to haue in gouernaunce,
 ffor to Turkey of right it longith most ;
 Beseching yow with vnbles obeysaunce, 2020
 Of your' lordshipe ye list so it Avaunce,
 That I may [bere] withoute envy or blame
 The formest baner in my faders name.' 2023
- Anon) with aH the Sowdon) gaue answere ; 2024
 'AH your' desire I graunt, it is but right.'
 The kyng hym) thankid in fuH curtes maner,
 Thanne to ther tentys sone they ganne them) dight,
 And dressid aH ther harnes ouer nyght,
 That they myght on) the morow withoute fayle
 AH maner men) be redy to BateH. 2030
- Whanne it was day, forward they ganne them) dresse
 In bright harnes these princes euerychone,
 With other dyuerce lordes more and lesse,
 Of Dukes and Erles and Barons anon), 2034
 Ther helmes garnysshed that they had vppon),
 With perlys and dyamauntez of price,
 Ther course[r]s trappid in the fressest wise. 2037
- In the Citee through owt in euery strete 2038
 Ther was grete noyse of pepiH aH abought,
 To dresse them) fourth ther ennys for to mete,
 And sone vppon) withoute eny doubt 2041
 ffro the Citee the Sowdon) passid owt,
 And rideth streyte to his pavilion),
 With lordes abought hym) in euery rome. 2044

Let me be the
constable of
your host,

and standard-
bearer.'

[leaf 11]
The Sultan
granted his
desire.

At daybreak
they made them
ready for batt'le,

and went out
of the city,

	And whanne that they were redy to goo,	2045
	And Aḥ assemelid in a companye,	
60,000 strong.	ij skore thowsand they were withoute moo.	
	Thanne were ordeyned the wardes by and by ;	2048
The foremost ward the king of Turkey had with	The formest warde Aḥ redy for to gye	
	The kyng ^r of Turkey had in gouernaunce,	
	Be very right of his enheritaunee.	2051
3000 knights ;	Thre thowsand knyghtes att his demening ^r ,	2052
	Be side Archers and foote men ⁿ that were ^r ther,	
	And As his graunt was atte begynneng ^r ,	
	his sonne ser Abeḥ he was banee.	2055
	The seeunde ward, to eertifie yow here,	
the king of Arabia had the second, with 2000 ;	Was putte on to the kyng ^r of Araby,	
	ij thowsand knyghtez in his companye.	2058
the third, Sir Anasore and Generydes,	The iij ^{de} ward ^r ther in was ser Anasore,	2059
	And with hym ⁿ was Generydes also,	
	And Aḥ the new made knyghtez they were thore, ¹	
with 1500 ;	And xv hundred men ⁿ withoute moo,	2062
	Of chosen ⁿ men ⁿ what euer they shuld do,	
	Aḥ vnder nethe bothe the rule of more ² and lesse,	
	Of Anasore and [of] Generydes.	2065
Cherydone was fourth,	The prince of Cesare, eallid eherydone,	2066
	he was the iij th , aḥ in Another ward,	
	his felisshepe wele be sene echon,	
with 1000 knights waiting on him ; next came the king of Sicily and 3000 knights ;	A thowsand knyght[ez] wayteng ^r on his gard ^r .	2069
	Thanne came the kyng of Ceseḥ afterward ^r ,	
	ij thowsand knyghtez in his companye,	
	With Archers and foote men ⁿ by and by.	2072
the king of Nicomedia	Nexst after hym ⁿ came the kyng of Nycomede,	2073
	V thowsand knyghtes, wonder to behold,	
	flūḥ begely shapen ⁿ bothe in lengeth And brede,	

¹ MS. *y^r*.² So MS. ? *the rule bothe more.*

- As blak as coole, as I befoore haue told, 2076
 The vj^{te} bateH to rule it as he wold,
 And as in writeng in fynde¹ remembraunce,
 Was putte hooly on to his gouernaunce. 2079
 ruled the sixth
 battle ;
- The kyng of Ethiope, with pepiH grete, 2080
 The vij^{te} ward he hadd in gouernaunce,
 ffuH wele purveid his enmys for to mete ;
 And in the viij^{te} ward, to saye yow the substaunce,
 iij kyng[ez] moo, with aH ther ordenaunce,
 Of Masedoyne and other kynges twayne,
 With moche peopiH to sey yow the certayn. 2086
 the king of
 Ethiopia had the
 seventh ;
 the king of
 Macedon and
 two others the
 eighth ;
- The ix^{te} ward the kyng of Capadoce, 2087
 With the nowmber of knygh^{te}z iij thowsand,
 ffuH wele wellyd to werre vppon ther foy ;
 The x^{te} batayH kyng Balam toke on hond, 2090
 With iij thowsand knygh^{te}z I vnderstonde ;
 The xj^{te} ward² therin was zepherus,
 A myghti prince in armys corageus. 2093
 the ninth, the
 king of Cappa-
 docia ;
 the tenth, king
 Balam ;
 the eleventh,
 Zephyrus ;
- The xij^{te} ward the kyng of Orkenaye, 2094
 With grete peopiH I say yow sekerly ;
 The xij^{te}, the southly³ for to say,
 Kyng phares with a nobiH companye ; 2097
 The last saue on the kyng of Barbary.
 These iij princes hadde after ther entente
 vj thowsand knygh^{te}z in ther poyntement. 2100
 the king of
 Orkney twelfth ;
 the thirteenth,
 King Phares ;
 the last but one
 the king of
 Barbary.
- The last bateH therin the Sowdon was, 2101
 iij thowsand knygh^{te}z with hym ther were,
 Some of his lande and some of dyuerce place,
 And euery man wele dressid in his geere ; 2104
 In that bateH DareH was Baner,
 And as the story seith in euery wise
 he was a likely knyght for that Office. 2107
 and Darell his
 standard-bearer.

¹ So MS. ? *I fynde*. ² MS. *was*. ³ So MS. ? *southe*.

- Anon with all ther Baneres were displayed, 2108
 It was a royal sight to see them arrayed,
 A riall sight it was to behold,
 Eeche of them wele horsid and arrayed,
 And in ther harnes dressid as they wold, 2111
 Ther eote Armers of siluer and of gold;
 And so forward they partid all in feere,
 The trompettys blew, it was A Ioye to here. 2114
- Now let us turn again to the [leaf 11, back] mighty king.
 Now late vs leue them rideng on the way, 2115
 And to this myghti kyng turne we agayn,
 Hough he purveith in all that euer he may,
 And in what wise that he may best ordeyne, 2118
 Of euery ward to make a capteyn,
 ffirst he appoynted in especiaall,
 hym self was in the foremost of them all. 2121
- He was in the foremost ward.
 Three kynggez were with hym in eompanye, 2122
 with him,
 Also he hadde of¹ knyghtes vj. thowsand,
 And in nowmber as many by and by,
 In euery warde was poynted afore hand, 2125
 And by writeng as I vnderstonde;
 Gwynan his sonne, whiche was full dere,
 Of his bateill he made hym Banere. 2128
- and Gwynan his son, standard-bearer.
 Thanne came *ser* Amelok, the kyng of ynd, 2129
 India,
 Whiche lande, god wote, full traytoru[s]ly he wanne,
 And vntrewly, the story makith mynde,
 Betrayed his prince whiche was a nobill man. 2132
 who betrayed king Auferius.
 The secunde ward *ser* Amelok beganne
 With meche pepill, to say yow eertenly,
 ij kynges mo were in his eompanye. 2135
- Sanyk,
 So forthermore thanne came the kyng Sanyk 2136
 king of Africa,
 Nexst afterward, and with hym kynggez twayn;
 A myghti prince, and kyng² of Auferyk,³

¹ MS. *haddes f.*² MS. *kyng he was.*³ MS. *Anseryk.*

the ninth, Lamadone, king of Libya;	The kyng of lybie, eallid lamadone,	2171
the tenth, Auferius,	The ix ^{te} warde hadde att his leding ^t ;	
	And the x ^{te} , the last of eueryehone,	
	Was auferius, the welebelouyd kyng	2174
king of India,	That was of ynd, and ther had his dwellyng	
	TiH he was putte [from] his enheritaunee,	
	Wherof be fore was made remembraunee.	2177
	Two kynges mo were in his poyntement,	2178
	With the nowmber of knyghtes aecordeng,	
	Owt of the Reme of Traee with hym ther were,	
	To wayte on hym ther were [they] well willyng ^t ,	2181
	But of on thing he had no knowlaehing ^t ,	
who knew not that he had to fight against his son Generydes.	That his fortune was suehe withoute lese	
	To fight ayenst his sone Generydes :	2184
	The last bateH was putt on to his gard ^t ,	2185
	And for this eawse it was apoyntid so,	
	Ser Amelok he hadde the secunde ward ^t ,	
	That noo debate shuld be bytwix them twoo,	2188
	Thanne after this ther was no more a doo ;	
	The men of armys bothe with spere and sheld,	
	With grete eorage dressid them in to the feld.	2191
	And on the toder part forward they went ;	2192
	Among his men the Sowdon eame rideng ^t ,	
The Sultan sent out 3 knights to reconnoitre.	And prevely iij knyghtez ow ^t he sent,	
	Of his enmys to knowe ther demeanyng ^t ,	2195
	They brought hym word ayenward thei were comyng ^t ,	
	And so they rode y ^e spae of half a nyght,	
	That euerychone of other hadde a sight.	2198
	Thanne afterward thei made noo taryeng ^t ,	2199
	But furth they goo withoute eny lett,	
	Wete ye wele ther was a sorowfuH encounteryng ^t ,	

Whanne the batels to geder were mett, 2202 The battles met.
 Euerychone onȝ other ferly they sette
 With grete eorage, and trewly for to speke
 It was a world to here the sperys breke. 2205

The kyng of kynggez rode on euery side, 2206 The king of
 ffuȝ elene armyd formest of eueryehone, kings
 There were butt fewe his strokes wold abide, [leaf 12]
 So many he onȝ horsid one be one ; 2209 unhorsed many a
 A comly prince he was to loke vppon,
 And therwith [all] riȝt good and honorable,
 And in the feld a knyȝt riȝt confortable. 2212

Ser abeȝ was of perse the Banere, 2213 Sir Abell met
 Avaunsid hymȝ and to a kyng ganne ride, him,
 And thoroughȝ owȝ the body he hymȝ bare,
 That onȝ his hors he myȝt not longe abide, 2216
 Butt to the grownde he felle and ther he dyed ;
 And thanne *ser* Abeȝ, in a hasty brayde,
 Vnto the kyng of kyngges thanne he seide : 2219

‘ Good *ser*,’ *quod* he, ‘ how likithȝ yow this game ? ’
 With thȝ wordes the kyng liked fuȝ iȝȝ,
 he thoughtȝ fuȝ wele to quyte hymȝ withȝ y^e same,
 And ranne to hymȝ withȝ a fuȝ eger wiȝȝ, 2223
 That from *ser* Abeȝ downe the baner feȝȝ, but lost his
 And suehe a stroke he hadde, to say yow trew, banner in the
 That fromȝ his hors almost he ther ouer threw. 2226 fight,

The kyng his fader sawe the baner downȝ, 2227 which his father
 he hastyd hymȝ as fast as *euer* he myȝtȝ, rescued.
 And withȝ an hundered knyȝtes of renownȝ
 The baner sone they reisid it vppe riȝt ; 2230
 Thanne was the bateȝ sore, I yow be hightȝ,
 And many slayȝȝ ; but or the day was past
 The men of perse withȝ drew themȝ atte last. 2233 The men of
 Persia withdrew,

- The nexst bateH, whanne thei wist how it was, 2234
 but Generydes Generydes and Anasore in certayn,
 came up and They brought ther felishepe bothe more and lesse,
 won the ground And in a while they wanne the grownd ayen; 2237
 again, Generydes sawe Guynan on the playn,
 The kyngges sone, rideng^t with spere and sheld;
 he taryd not, butt mette hym in the feld. 2240
- fought with Gwaynan on to Generides he ranne, 2241
 Gwynan, And with [his] spere he brake his sheld on twayne;
 Generides ayenward like a man
 With stode his stroke, and smote hym so ageyn, 2244
 That from his hors he felle vppon the playn,
 And who that euer that was wele payde or wroth,
 unhorsed him, he toke his hors with hym and furth he goth. 2247
- Thanne was ther on not ferre owt of y^e prese, 2248
 lyke a harowed he semyd for to be,
 To hym Anon thanne seid Generydes,
 ‘Good ser,’ quod he, ‘doo now sum what for me;’ 2251
 ‘What is your wil and pleasure?’ quod he.
 ‘My lorde,’ he seid, ‘that ye wil in this nede
 Chaunge my SadyH and sett it on this stede. 2254
- Whanne ye haue do, take ye my stede therefore.’ 2255
 Sygrem hym did as Generides hym badde,
 he hight so, and to sey yow more
 In his demeanyng he was wise and sadde; 2258
 Of bothe partys right grete favour he hadde,
 To gentilmen he was right servisable,
 And ther withaH fuH good and companable. 2261
- and took his Generydes leppe vppe vppon his stede, 2262
 horse, A better was not onder nethe the sonne;
 ffor grete suerte in story as I rede,

- The kyng of kyngges gave it to his sonne, 2265
 Or the bateH was eny thing begonne ;
 Sygrem was glad of chaungyng^t of his hors,
 ffor of his owne he gave butt litiH fors. 2268 giving his own
to Sygrem.
- To hym anon thanne seid Generydes, 2269 He asks Sygrem
where Sir
Amelok is.
 ‘ Sygrem,’ *quod* he, ‘ do me to vnderstonde
 Ser Amelok, if he be in the preese,
 Whiche trayturly hath wonne my faders lande. 2272
 ffayne wold I wete if he were here nye hande.’
 ‘ Trewly,’ he seid, ‘ now I remembyr me,
 Suche one ther is in very certente. 2275
- Butt as for yow, I wote not what ye be, 2276
 hym knowe I wele trewly, that is noo nay ;
 The first bateH saue on ther in is he,
 This is the very trougth that I yow saye, 2279
 And what ye be, I beseche and praye
 To lete me wete the truthe in euery wise,
 And I shaH trewly owe yow my *seruice*.’ 2282 ‘ I know him
well ; he is in
the first battle
save one.

Tell me who
you are.’
- Generydes thanne gaue hym this answere ; 2283 Generydes said,
 ‘ Sygrem,’ he seid, ‘ to yow I wiH not leyne,
 I shaH yow telle the trouth of this mater,
 kyng auferius is my fader in certeyn, 2286
 Whiche was of ynd bothe lord and souereyn,
 And now is kyng of Trace, as I yow say,
 Butt lete this go noo ferther, I yow praye.’ 2289 ‘ Auferius is
my father.’
- ‘ Kyng^t auferius,’ *quod* he, ‘ I knowe hym wele, 2290 ‘ I know him
well,’ replied
Sygrem,
 The last bateH of aH ther in he is,
 As ferre as I canne vnderstonde and fele,
 Ser Amelok is not his frende I wis, 2293
 And by what reason I wiH telh yow this ;
 The kyng of kynggez partyd them twayn,
 Be cause they shuld noo debate begynne certeyn.’ 2296 ‘ and Sir Amelok
is not his friend.’

- ‘How shall I know Sir Amelok?’ said Generydes, ‘How shaft I doo,’ thanne seid Generydes, 2297
‘Of Amelok to haue sum knowlaehyng?’
ffor hym that I may knowe among the preese,
But if I haue sum redy tokyni[n]g.’ 2300
‘I shaft yow telle,’ quod he, ‘withoute feyneng,
his stede is gray withoute layen),
The hede is whight, to say yow for eertayn). 2303
- For more knowelage to telle yow which is he, 2304
his harmes are, who so list to be holde,
The felde of Goullys in very eerteunte,
Ther with also iij bandes all of gold.’ 2307
And whanne that he Generydes had told
Of Amelok, and hough he shuld hym fynde,
Wete ye wele he was the gladder in hys mynde. 2310
- They ride on together, Furth on his stede rideth Generydes, 2311
To fynd ser Amelok if that he may,
With hym rideth Sygrem still opeese,
And as they twayne rode spekyng be the waye, 2314
Segrem was ware wher in a valay
Ser Amelok came on rideng A pace,
hym for to rest as for a litiH space : 2317
- and meet Sir Amelok in a valley.
‘Loo yender is ser Amelok,’ he seid, 2318
‘And saving on with hym ther is no moo.’
And with that word Generydes abrayde,
‘Now is,’ quod he, ‘good tyme for me to goo;’ 2321
So furth he ridith til that he came hym too :
The toder sawe hym come with spere and sheld,
They fight. And furth he gothe and mette hym in the feld. 2324
- Amelok breaks in two Generydes’ shield.
And atte first he stroke Generydes, 2325
And with that stroke he brast his sheld in twayn),
Anone with all he quyte hym dowteles,

- And smote his sheld quyte on the playn. 2328 Generydes cuts
 Thanne seid Generides, 'now am I fayn,
 Thow shalt not laughie atte me in mokyry,
 ffor thow hast lost thy sheld as wele as I. 2331
 away Amelok's
 shield.
- And as for on thyng¹ I shaH the wele ensure, 2332
 As for thy sheld thu shalt haue it no more,
 ffor myn is broke it may noo more endure,
 Be thow right sure I wiH haue thynne therfore : ' 2335
 And thanne beganne the bateH passing sore,
 Ther was non of them shewid favour to a *nother*,
 ffor right dedely the tone hatid the toder. 2338
- Syr Amelok was wrothe as he myght be, 2339
 And to Generydes right thus he sayde ;
 'I shaH yow quyte that thu hast doo to me,'
 And smote hym on the hide with suche a brayde, 2342 They fight on.
 That in hym self he was some what dismayed :
 Quod Amelok, 'thu hast I now this day,
 Reche me my¹ sheld and thu goo thy waye.' 2345
- 'Thow getist it not, fals traytour [that] thu art, 2346 Generydes
 Or thu goo ferther thu shalt haue mysehaunse,
 ffor thu hast with thy fals envyous hert
 Putte my fader from his enheritaunee, 2349
 Whiche was his Ioye, his lyfe, and his pleasur,
 And in my faders presence thu me smote,²
 Whiche I haue not forgete yet, god it wote. 2352
 reproaches
 Amelok for
 his treachery.
- And thanne I myght not ease my hert in dede, 2353
 But now thu shalt repent it or thu goo :'
 And with his swerd he smette hym on the hede,
 The helme to brast anon in pees two ; 2356 Sir Amelok
 is wounded
 his lippys and his noose he smote away also,
 Clene from his face, and ther with aH full sone,
 he bledde so fast that he felle in A swonne. 2359 and unhorsed,

¹ MS. *thy*.² MS. *smette*.

- To hym thanne seide Generides anon, 2360
 'WhiH ere thu bad I shuld reche the thy sheld,
 And now me think thu hast nede of on,
 ffor neyther spere ne sheld that thu may weld : ' 2363
 but rescued And with that word vppeward his hede [he] helde,
 Risyng with aH to helpe hym self right fayne ;
 Generydes thanne smote hym down ageyn, 2366
- Hym for to slee was fully his entente. 2367
 by his knights. With that anon his knyghtes came hym to,
 And sette hym on his hors and furth they went,
 As soft a paece as y^{ei} myght with hym goo, 2370
 Too se hym in that plight they were full woo ;
 Generydes took his stede anon thanne toke Generydes,
 the horse he had won of Amelok, And led hym furth with hym in to the prese. 2373
- And whanne that he was eskepyd trewly, 2374
 Sygrem he found anon in eontenent,
 ' My frende,' quod [he], ' I prae yow fethfully
 To do my massage after myn entent, 2377
 and sent it to That ye wiH take this stede, and hym present
 Auferius by Sygrem. To auferius my lord and fader dere,
 And say to hym that I haue wonne hym here 2380
- Off Amelok, the traytour most vntrewe ; 2381
 And if he aske as for more witnesse,
 Who sent to hym and how that I hym knewe,
 Telle hym it is his sone Generydes, 2384
 And hough that Amelok in aH the prese,
 Withynne his howse and in his high presenece,
 fluff cruely smote hym with violence ; 2387
- And he ayenward smete hym with his knyff 2388
 Thorough the Arme in very eertente.'
 Sygrem Ayenward seid, ' ser, be my liff,

- I shaH do that ye haue comaundyd me, 2391
 And take hym this present where euer he be.'
 Now goo Sygrem, as fast as ye may spede,
 To Auferius to present hym this stede. 2394
- And whanne this stede to Auferius was brought, 2395
 And wist fro whense he came, thanne was he fayn ;
 'Now, good Sygrem, as euer I may do ought
 ffor thy pleasur,' quod auferius ayen, 2398
 'Of my sonne telle me somme token playn,
 hough I may best knowe hym among them aft ;'
 'Ser,' quod Sygrem, 'with right good wil I shaH.' 2401
- Sygrem hym told tokynnes moo thanne on, 2402
 his sonne to knowe be right of his office,
 What colour was his hors he rode vppon,
 And what harmys he bare, and what devise, 2405
 AH this he told hym in full redy wise ;
 kyng auferius ther with he was contente,
 And hym rewardid weH for his presente.¹ 2408
- As now putte we this mater in respite, 2409
 And to Generydes turne we ageyn,
 Whiche founde his felawes aH most discomfete,
 ffor they had fought aH the day certeyn ; 2412
 Yet whanne they hym sawe thenne were thei fayn,
 And ganne reioyse whanne they to geder mette,
 With knyghtly corage frely on they sette. 2415
- And thanne beganne the bateH passing sore ; 2416
 They fought alway to geder stiH opece,
 The men of perse were hartid more and more,
 AH be counfort of Generides : 2419
 he styntid not, nor neuer wold he scese,
 And with his swerd where that his stroke glynt,
 Owt of ther sadiH full redely they went. 2422

Auferius asked
 Sygrem some
 token by which
 he might know
 [leaf 13]
 his son.

He told him the
 colour of his
 horse and his
 arms.

Generydes found
 his fellows
 almost dis-
 comfited.

When they saw
 him they were
 glad.

Every one went
 down before the
 stroke of
 Generydes.

¹ MS. *presence*.

- The king of kings asked Sygrem, The kyng of kyngges toke good hede [], 2423
 To hym he callid Sygrem furth with aȝ anon,
- 'What knight is yonder on my son's horse?' 'What knyghte is yender,' *quod* he, 'canne ye me saye? 2426
 That in the feld outrayth euerychone;
 So good a knyght as he me semyth now
 In aȝ the world, but on thyng I merveth,
 My sonnys stede hath he, withoute fayle; 2429
- Where with trewly I am not wele apayed, 2430
 Notwithstondeng^a a nobyȝ knyght is he,
 And that ye knowe right wele, Sygrem,' he sayd,
 'Wherefore I wold he were dwellyng with me; 2433
 Of gold and siluer he shaȝ haue plente,
 Townys and castelys at his obyseaunce,
 And other thinges moo to his plesaunce.' 2436
- 'Sir,' *quoth* Sygrem, 'he is of a high lineage, 2437
 'Ser,' *quod* Sygrem, 'trewly it wiȝ not be,
 he is descendid of an high lenage,
 And as fer¹ furth as I canne fele and see,
 he waytith after right grete heritage, 2440
 ffor with the Sowdon he wiȝ take no wage,
 And for to telle yow trouthe as in this case,
 his trost is to haue fayre Clarionas.' 2443
- 'Nay,' said the king, 'I take her for my own, 2444
 'Clarionas,' *quod* he, 'nay, lete be that;
 I take hir for my owen, *ser*, be the rode,
 Whether he wiȝ or noo, for wote ye what,
 Vppon his body I wiȝ make it good: ' 2447
 And whanne Sygrem these wordes vnderstode,
 ffuȝ sone he went to Generydes,
 And told hym what he seid more or lesse. 2450
- Belen now seeks Generydes, Now kyng Belleyȝ seecheith Generydes 2451
 Thorough the ost, to fynde hym if he maye,
 And as he rode a side hand of the prece,

¹ MS. *for*.

- he sawe where that he rode in [a] valaye ; 2454 and finds him in
 To hym anon fuH streyghit he toke the waye,
 And on a high he beganne to crye,
 ‘Turne the,’ he seid, ‘for tyme it is trewly : 2457
 Vppon my stede blanchard thu ridest here, 2458
 Butt on my list thu shalt hym sone for goo.’
 That word anon Generides ganne here,
 he turnyd hym withoute wordes moo. 2461
 They toke ther coursis and ranne to geder soo, They ran
 Thanne iche atte other’ and bothe ther sperys helde, together and were
 But thei were elene onhorsid in the feld. 2464 both unhorsed,
 Vppon ther stedis sone thei were ayeyn, 2465 but got up on
 And so they fought to geder’ hand to hand, their steeds
 Ther was noo favour’ shewid be twix them twayn, again, and
 Butt strokes grete and sore, I vnderstonde ; 2468 fought hand to
 ij better knygh̄tes were not in aH the land, hand.
 ffor long’ thei fought and neuer wold thei lette,
 Ne yet departe to tyme the osten mette.¹ 2471
 Thanne wax the bateH euer more and more, 2472 The battle waxed
 As thei resortid on euery side ; sore,
 lordes and knygh̄tez were hurt right soore,
 And many ligging dede with woundes wide ; 2475
 lucas ffuH sone Manessen had aspied, Lucas rode at
 With sheld and spere he dressid hym full right, Manassen,
 And ranne to hym in aH that euer he mygh̄t. 2478
 The stede² was good that lucas rode vppon, 2479
 And suehe a stroke he gave hym with a spere,
 That thorough the harnes and the shulder bon,
 Thorough owt his bak and slew hym ther ; 2482 and slew him,
 Thanne to the kyng he seid in this maner :
 ‘Take yow here this present or ye goo,
 And I shaH do my part to send yow moo.’ 2485

¹ MS. *mettez*.² MS. *stode*.

- Tho wordes toke the kyng in Mokkery, 2486
 And made hym redy with spere and sheld,
 To *ser* lucas he ranne full egerly
 And stroke hym fro his hors in to the feld; 2489
 With that anon Generydes beheld
 how lucas was owtrayed among his foyes,
 And in he came and rescuyd hym att onys. 2492
- but was unhorsed
 by the king,
 and rescued by
 Generydes,
 [leaf 13, back]
- Streyghit to the kyng he rideth for certayn, 2493
 And with his sword he smote hym on the hede,
 The helme to brast anon in pecys twayn,
 And with that stroke he slewe his hors in dede, 2496
 And so the stede fel vnder nethe hym dede,
 hym self also ther with was astoinyd sore,
 And blew his horne, to saye yow forthermore. 2499
- who slew the
 king's horse.
 The king blew
 his horn,
- and a thousand
 knights came up
 and carried him
 off.
 Then came in the
 men of higher
 India,
 (see p. 69)
- Thanne came a thowsaund knyghtez of his ost, 2500
 And vppe thei sette hym on a nother stede,
 And glad they were, wenyng they had hym lost,
 And furth owt of the prese with hym they yede.¹ 2503
 Thanne came ther in as fast as thei myght spede,
 The buscommest folk, the men of higher ynd,
 Of whom before the story makith mend. 2506
- with weapons
 out of all
 measure.
 The men of
 Persia were
 discomfited,
- Whanne they come in they made rome Alaboughit,
 Ther wepons were made owt of all mesur,
 full ih shapyn with pekys in and owt,
 Ther strokes myght no man endure; 2510
 The men of Perse were att discomfetur,
 And whanne the Sowdon hard of that tiding,
 he came anon and made no taryng; 2513
- Conforting them in full good maner, 2514
 And for ther service thankyd them Also :
 The prince of Cesare gave hym this answer,

¹ MS. *yode*.

- ‘ Now truly, *ser*,’ *quod* he, ‘ if it were so 2517
 That they were men) with whom) we haue a do,
 We wold not dowte to mete them) on) be on),
 But suerly they be fendez eueryehone. 2520
- Ther wepons be suehe ther may no man) abide, 2521
 Wherefore this is now myn) auise,’ *quod*¹ he,
 ‘ Vs to with drawe a liteH owt aside, and withdrew
 That our enmys perseyue not that we fle.’ 2524 towards
 The Sowdon) saw it wold non) other be, the city,
 Butt nedis he must geve his assent ther to, Mountenor.
 And yet he was fuH loth so for to do. 2527
- They drewe softely to the Citee Ward, 2528
 The Sowdon) blow his horn) that thei myght here,
 The lordes and the knyghtez of his garde,
 Whanne thei it hard) anon) thei drew hym) nyere, 2531
 As as they rode to geder aH in feer’,
 Ther enmys made on) them) a newe afraye,
 That vnnethe myght the Sowdon) skape a waye. 2534 The Sultan
 barely escaped,
- V. hunderyd of his men) he lost also, 2535 and lost 500 men
 And of horsis a thowsand atte lest and 1000 horses.
 Amongt them) AH thei lost withoute moo,
 And some lordes and knyghtez of the best ; 2538
 The day passid, the sonne drewe to the rest,
 And be that tyme his felisshepe and he
 Were come to Mountoner the riche Citee. 2541
- And of aH this wist not Generides, 2542 Generydes and
 Nor anasor, to say yow certeynly, Anasore wist not
 ffor thei were aHway fightyng) still opeece of this, but
 Ayenst Galad the kyng) of Asirye ; 2545 fought Galad,
 And whanne they had knowlage vtterly, the king of
 Of the Sowdon) and of his distresse, Assyria,
 Thanne were they bothe in right grete hevynesse. 2548

¹ MS. *now q^d*.

till their men
were distressed,
and they tried
to retire,
but found the
enemy between
them and the
city.

Yer¹ fought thei stiH and reskew was *ther* non, 2549
Nor non comyng^t as ferre as they myght see,
Ther men almost distressid euerychone,
And many slayne, thenne of necessite 2552
They them withdrewe, and towarde the Citee
They toke the way, and in conclusion
Thanne was the oste be twene them and y^e town; 2555

That in no wise they wist not hough to pas, 2556
Ne hough to do they knowe noo *sertente*,
Thanne Anasor^t remembred that ther was
A postrene yssuyng^t owt of the Citee, 2559
And thederward they drewe to haue entree,
But or they myght in suerte come and goo
Be twix them bothe they had I noughe to do. 2562

Now to the Sowdon lete us turne ageyn, 2563
ffor here peopiH what mone that he do make ;
Of euery man he enqueryd the certente,
Whiche of his men were ded and which were take ;
The Citee made grete sorow for ther sake,
And specially thei made grete hevynes
ffor Anasore and for Generides ; 2569

And thought suerly it myght non other be, 2570
Butte thei were bothe [putte] to discomfure.
Thanne sayde DareH, 'it were fuH grete pite
Suche ij knyghtez to lese, I yow ensure ;' 2573
And furth he goth vppon his aventure,
Beseching^t god to counceH hym and rede,
ffor he wold fynd hym² cyther quyk or dede. 2576

There was a
rumour in the city
that Generydes
and Anasore
were slain.
Clarionas heard

Thanne was a noyse the Citee aH along^t 2577
That they were slayn, and woo thei were *therfore* ;
Clarionas herd how the tydingez sprong,

¹ MS. *Yey*.

² MS. *hyn*.

- here chere was don, she wept passing sore : 2580 it and wept sore,
 MyrabeH sawe she wept more and more,
 ‘Madame,’ quod she, ‘these tydengez that be now, but Mirabell did
 A wager dare I ley they are not trew : 2583 not believe the
 news.
 And if it please yow, for your’ disporte, 2584
 To walk vppe to the towre¹ ther shaH ye see
 Paraventur’ that may be your’ counfort.’
 ‘I wiH,’ she sayde, ‘do as as ye counceH me : 2587
 Comforte or no, or hough that euer it be.’ [leaf 14]
 So furth she went vppe to the towre on hye, Clarionas went
 Butt nought she sawe, she wept so wtterly. 2590 to the top of
 the tower,
 but saw nothing
 for weeping.
 Thanne was DareH come to Generides, 2591 Sir Darell made
 his way to
 Generydes.
 And glad thei were, bothe he and Anasor’,
 ffor thei had long^t endured counfortles :
 Whanne he was come amendid was ther cher’, 2594
 And att that tyme owt of the prese thei were,
 To rest them self a season to endure,
 Ther eche to other told his aventur’. 2597
 Clarionas was on the towre on hye, 2598 Clarionas on the
 tower
 Of here wepyng she ded hir self refrayn,
 And owt vppon the feld she ganne aspye,
 Where Anasore came rideng vppon the playn ; 2601 saw Anasore,
 By his Armys she knewe hym for certayn
 That it was he, and ther withaH anon
 A grete part of hir hevynesse was goon. 2604
 Generides was also in the feld, 2605 but did not know
 Generydes because
 he had Sir
 Amelok’s shield.
 Butt whiche was he she had noo knowlaching,
 ffor he had on ser Amelokkez sheld,
 With his devise, in very tokenyng 2608
 That he it wanne att ther encounteryng,
 And so they rode oyther with spere and sheld,
 Toward town clarionas them beheld. 2611

¹ MS. *town*.

- Auferius with 500 knights rode And as thei rode anon thei were Aspid 2612
 By on that was with Auferius the kyng,
 And in noo wise thanne wold he not abide,
 And told his lord withoute more taryeng; 2615
 And he anon, leving aH other thing,
 Sent furth knygh̃tez v. C. in aray,
 to meet them. hym self also to mete them on the waye. 2618
- And aH was to withstonde ther passage, 2619
 With these knygh̃tes he rode on stiH opeece ;
 The foremost was Ismael the Savage, The formest was Ismael the Savage,
 Kyng Auferius sonne withoute leese, 2622
 And very brother onto Generides ;
 who encountered Generydes. Be fore them aH he came hym self alone,
 Generides was ware therof anon. 2625
- He toke his spere And mette hym in the feld, 2626
 They toke ther course and ranne to rownde :
 he stroke Generydes vppon the sheld,
 That hors and man Almost were att grownde, 2629
 But vppe he rose anon both hoole and sounde,
 And with his swerd he smote hym so ageyn,
 That with that stroke he brake his sheld on twayn.
- They fought till Generydes smote So fought y^ei stiH withoute eny drede, 2633
 And neyther of them wold to other yeld ;
 Generydes hym sette so vppon the hede,
 off Ismael's helm, That his helme flew quyte in to the feld, 2636
 With that anon Generydes beheld
 and saw his features, The fetures wele that was in his visage,
 Demyng that they were aH of on lenage. 2639
- And for to haue ther of very knowlaehing, 2640
 To Ismael he said, in very eertente,
 'Good ser,' quod he, 'for loue of hevyn kyng,

- Tell me for trougth what maner a man ye be, 2643 He asked him
And whense ye came, and owt of what contre ?' who he was.
- 'What man I am,' *quod* Ismael ayeyn,
'And of what kynne I wiȝt not layn. 2646
- Kyng^t auferius trewly my fader is, 2647 'Auferius is
To say yow sothe, and for to bere noo blame, my father,'
And of the Reme of Trace is kyng I wis, quoth Ismael.
- Ther was I born and brought vppe in the same, 2650
And Ismael the Savage is myn name ;
Now I haue told yow all withoute leese.'
- 'Gramercy, frende,' thanne sayd Generydes, 2653 'Gramercy,
friend,' said
Generydes,
- 'For we haue fought to long I yow ensure.' 2654
With that he toke hym in his armys twoo,
'We are broderen,' *quod* he, 'of on nature, 2657
kyng^t auferius my fader is also ;
I may nott tary now, for I must goo,
My felawes hath mervell to see me heer,
Butt here after I shaȝt make yow better chere.' 2660
- Thanne ther was an hevy departeng, 2661 There was a
hough iche of them made to other mone. heavy parting
Generydes sawe where was thanne comyng^t between them.
- his faders men, wele horsid euerychone, 2664
And he full hevy butt hym self alone,
And they to many as to his entente,
So furth on was he to his felawes went.¹ 2667 Generydes went
on to his fellows,
- Whanne he was come ther as his felawes were, 2668
They sawe comyng along in a valay
A grete peopill, wele dressed in ther geere,
To lette hym and his felawes on the waye, 2671 and in a valley
saw a great people
coming to hinder
them with a
knight at their
head.
- Thanne was ther on a knyght in good aray,
Be fore them all avaunsid hym to ride,
Generydes hym had right sone aspyed ; 2674

¹ MS. *was to his felawes he went.*

- Generydes rode
at him, and slew
him. And furth with aH he mette on the playn, 2675
In sight of aH the pepitt that were ther,
And Atte first he brast his sheld in twayn,
That thorough owt the body ranne the spere ; 2678
- Clarionas saw
this, and recog-
nized her lover. Clarionas demyd that he was ther,
And to hir mayde she sayde full sobyrly,
'What knyght is that that doth so worthyly?' 2681
- [leaf 14, back] 'It is your' loue,' *quod* she, 'withoute moo.' 2682
'Now good MirabeH, what is *your* avise ?'
'Trewly,' *quod* she, 'I trow that it be soo,
Me think it shuld ben he in eny wise ; 2685
The rede penseH I see att his devise,
The whiche in sothe ye dede for hym ordeyn,
Gwynot brought it hym your' Cha[m]berleyn.' 2688
- 'O trouth,' *quod* she, 'Madame,¹ that is trew ; 2689
Now am I wele remembryd ther vppon,
Butt euermore my sorow doth renewe,
Withoute reskewe to se hym so alone, 2692
Thus shaH they be distressid euerychone,
Namely my love, whiche is so good a knyght,
ffor hym is aH my mone I yow be hight. 2695
- For wele I wote, ther is noo knyght a lyve 2696
That better doith here and in euery place,
And this to say my reson doith me dryve,
ffor I am his while I haue lyffe and space.' 2699
And while she remembryd aH this case
Come Ismael rideng¹ with spere and sheld,
And to DareH he ridith in to the feld. 2702
- Bothe to the grounde he bare hors and man, 2703
ffurth with came the ost vppon the playn,
And as *ser* DareH wold haue Res[k]eu thanne,

¹ ? *Mirabell*.

- Ther came a knyght and held hym down Ayeyn, 2706
 And with his swerd wold haue Darell slayn,
 Butt in the most and in the thikest prese
 hym to reskew thanne came Generides. 2709
- and Darell would
have been slain,
but was saved
by Generydes,
- Streight as he cowde to that knyght he rode, 2710
 he brake his helme and stroke hym on the heede,
 That on his hors no lengger he a bode,
 But downe he fel and fast beganne to blede; 2713
 Generydes with hym he toke his stede,
 And furth fro them he rode a litil aside,
 And toke it Darell theron for to ride. 2716
- and they rode
forth together.
- Clarionas beheld this euery dele; 2717
 Quod she ayeyn to Mirabeil here mayde,
 'The same is he, the whiche I love so weil;
 'Madame,' quod she, 'so haue I alway sayde, 2720
 ye nede noo thyng for hym to be dismayde,
 Nor let no mo suehe thoughtez yow assayle,
 ffor it is he withoute eny fayle.' 2723
- Now rideth Darell with Generides, 2724
 As full of thought for his fortune that day,
 And as they rode a litil fro the prese,
 kyng Auferius came erossyng them the way, 2727
 full elene armyd in riche and good Aray.
 Darell anon dressid hym full right,
 And ranne to hym in all that euer he myght. 2730
- Auferius crossed
their path,
- and Darell rode
at him,
- And one the hede smote Auferius the kyng; 2731
 The helme was sure, or ellys he had hym slayn,
 kyng auferius withoute more tarieng
 he gave ser Darell another for certayn 2734
 Vppon the helme, the fyre thanne sprang owt ayeyn,
 And ther withall, with a full soden brayde,
 To ser Darell right in this wise he saide : 2737
- and smote him
on the head.
- Auferius gave
him a blow in
return.

- ‘Old men can smite,’ quoth he. ‘The ¹ yong^t knyghtez,’ quod he, ‘that ben so prowde,
Old men canne smyte, wete welc it is trew.’
- Generydes heard his voice, and knew it was his father. Generides hard hough he spake so lowde,
And by the voyce his fader thanne he knewe, 2741
Toward them both anon he drewe ;
Whanne he was come in full vnable wise
To his fader, he said right in this wise : 2744
- ‘ I praye yow, *ser*, your’ hand fro me refrayn,’ 2745
To the tyme ye knowe my purpose vtterly,
He parted them, here am I come to departe yow twayn),
ffor I must loue yow bothe and reason whye ; 2748
And namely yow alone most specially,
As for this knyght whiH my life ² maye endure,
I shaH hym neuer fayle I yow ensure.’ 2751
- ‘ What maner a man be ye thanne,’ saide the kyng,
‘ That putte your’ self soo fer³ furth in the prese ?’
‘ I shaH yow telle,’ quod he, ‘ withoute feyneng^t ;
Of Surre am I born withoute leese, 2755
As for my name I hight Generides.’
And ther with aH he tared not certayn),
and joined his fellows. Butt to ⁴ his felawes furth he goth ayeyn). 2758
- Auferius was disinayed. Kyng^t Auferius thanne was sumwhat dismayed, 2759
Be cause that he departid so ayeyn) ;
ffor be the wordes whiche he to hym saide,
he was his sonne, he knew it for certayn) ; 2762
Yet of the sight of hym he was full fayn),
As nature wold, and in especiaH
That he was wexen soo goodly a knyght with aH. 2765
- Now was the bateH dureng^t stiH opece, 2766
The kynggez ost encresid more and more ;
Said Darell unto Generydes, Thanne sayd DareH on to Generides,

¹ ? *Ye*.² MS. *list*.³ MS. *for*.⁴ MS. *he to*.

- ‘ffor your’ pleasure we shaft repente it sore.’ 2769 ‘For your
‘ffor hym¹,’ quod he, ‘now good tell me wherefore.’ pleasure we
‘yes yes,’ quod he, ‘this is the case, shall repent
your’ lee is euer stedfast in on place.’ 2772 it sore :
your eye is ever
- ‘What place is that?’ [quod he] ‘I prae yow saye ;
As for the kyng¹, I see hym nott I wise.’
‘I mene not that,’ quod Dareff, ‘be this daye,
It is another thing¹, so haue I blis. 2776 [leaf 15]
On yender towre on highe I see where is on yonder tower.’
That causith yow these mastereys for to shewe,
Now haue I told yow all with wordes fewe.’ 2779
- ‘In sothe,’ quod he, ‘ye bere me wrong¹ in hand, 2780 ‘In sooth,’ quoth
ffor certainly I saugh hir not to nowe ; Generydes, ‘I saw
Sithe she is ther, as now I vnderstonde, her not till now.’
If I do wele she woth me more allowe. 2783
Now be not wroth, for by licence of yow
Yet onys I wiht assaye what I canne do.’
‘I graunt,’ quod Dareff, ‘late vs goo thertoo.’ 2786
- Generides, and with hym ser Dareff, 2787
Bothe on thei rode to knowe what was ther vre ; They rode on,
And with Generides was Nataneff,
Beryng¹ a spere of tymber good and sure ; 2790
Generides ther mette att a venture and Generydes
The kyng¹ Ruben, Redy with spere and sheld, met Ruben,
And ther they strake to geder in the feld. 2793
- Vppon the sheld he strake Generides, 2794
And ther with brake his sheld in peeis twayn :
A mighty man he was, butt neuer the lesse
Atte same course he smote hym so aycyn, 2797 and smote him
That of his hors he felle vppon the playn, from his horse,
With that Generides both fair and wele
his hors he delyuered on to Nataneff. 2800

- which he sent 'I pray yow, *ser*,' he saide, 'haue here this stede, 2801
 And take ye hym on to my lady der';
 Me recomaunding on to hir' goodly hede,
 And say to hir that I haue wonne hym here.' 2804
 'WeH *ser*,' *quod* he, 'as towching this mater,
 late me alone now that I knowe *your* entente,
 In aH the hast I wuH hym to hir *present*.' 2807
- to Clarionas by
 Natanell. Furth with the steede he went owt of y^e prese, 2808
 And streyght he goth on to Clarionas;
 'Madame,' *quod* he, 'my lord Generides
 hym reemmaundith lowly to your' grace, 2811
 And sent yow here a stede of his purchase
 And where that he hadde it to tell yow very playn,
 Of kyng Ruben he wanne hym for *certayn*.' 2814
- She was right
 glad. 'Ye be right welecome, NataneH,' *quod* she, 2815
 'Of this I am right gladde and wele content,
 And moche gladder to knowe the eertente
 Of his welefare that hath yow heder sent.' 2818
 'Madame,' *quod* he, 'right now encontynent
 I wold that he hym self were with yow here.'
 'With me,' *quod* she, 'so wold I that he were.' 2821
- Natanell returned
 to Generydes, Thanne NataneeH departid furth with aH, 2822
 And had a token onto Generides;
 In to the feld he goth among them aH,
 And founde hym ther aside hand of the prese, 2825
- and told him all. And furth with aH told hym the ¹ hoole proesse,
 In euery thing that he hadde done and saide,
 Tho was Generides full wele apayed; 2828
- He took courage, And ther with aH he toke anon corage, 2829
 And to the feld he dressid hym to ride;
 Of yong and old and euery man of age

¹ MS. *all the*.

- Ther wer butt few his strokes wold abide. 2832 and few could
The kyngges ost drew to the Citez side, abide his stroke.
Generides was thanne vppon the playn,
A while ther to rest hym *ther* in eertayn. 2835
- The kyngⁱ of kynggez thanne was in his tente, 2836 The king of
And of a^h this he hard no maner thingⁱ ; kings
he harde a noyse and wist not what it ment,
But furth he goth levingⁱ A^h other thingⁱ, 2839
And toke his hors withoute taryengⁱ,
he blew his horn that a^h his men myght here, blew his horn,
With that thei come a¹ bought hym A^h in feere. 2842 and his men
came about him.
- Whanne Dare^h sawe the kyngⁱ of kyngges ost, 2843 Darell prayed
Generydes anon fu^h fayre [he] prayed ; Generydes to
'ffor love of god that is of myghtez most, retire into the
Goo we in to the Citee now,' he sayde ; 2846 city.
'Dare^h, *quod* he, 'wher of be ye dismayd?
I see noo eause, for we sha^h do right wele
And skape ther handes, dough^te ye neuer a dele.' 2849
- 'I am contente,' *quod* he, 'that we do so ; 2850 'I am content,'
As for my part now late vs goo ther on.' quoth he.
And with hym was *ser* Anosore Also ;
his horn thanne blew Generides anon, 2853
With that ther came A bowte hym euerychone,
his felasshepe and what that euer he ment,
Thei were redy atte his commaundment. 2856
- And furth they dressid hym in his gere, 2857 He, Darell, and
Generides, Dare^h, and Anasor', Anasore have
Might neuer men doo better on a day ther, done bravely.
Thanne they dede ther so fewe pepill as thei were :
Eche of them iij so wele quiete them ther,
They slew iij knyghtez eu[er]yehone for on,
The remenaunt were putte to flight euerychon. 2863

¹ MS. *an*.

- And while they fought to geder in the feld, 2864
 The cite sent owte anon in content
 iij skore knyghtez, Armyd with spere And sheld ;
 Ther with Generides was wele content : 2867
 ‘lo *serys*!’ *quod* hee, ‘Aftur your owne entent,
 The felissheppe is youre that yender ye see,
 Now may I suerly entre the Citee.’ 2870
- They took the way to the city.
 [leaf 15, back] And whanne they were aȝt to geder mett, 2871
 To the Citee they toke the wey full riȝt,
 And in they went withoute eny lette :
- Then was there joy. Thanne was ther Ioy, I yow be highȝt, 2874
 In euery strete si[n]ggyng and fyres bright ;
 And euery creature, both more and lesse,
 Gaue a gret lawde onto Generides. 2877
- The Sultan anon sent for him and thanked him. Anon withaȝt the Sowdon for hym sent, 2878
 And gaue hym ther his thank in feythful wise ;
 ffor he perseuyd wele in his entent,
 he hadde hym do riȝt wurchipful seruice : 2881
 And ther the Sowdon made hym full promys,
 Seyng his labour and his grete travell,
 That in noo wise he wold hym neuer fayle. 2884
- The king of kings sent for men of craft to break the walls. The kyng of kyngges erly vppe he rose, 2885
 And sent for men of craft in aȝt the hast,
 To make engenys after his purpose,
 The walis to breke, the Citee for to wast ; 2888
 Whanne this was purveyd for thanne atte last,
 Ermones said Kyng Ermones stode vppe before them aȝt,
 And to the kyng he spake in especiaȝt : 2891
- ‘Me think, *ser*, as after myn avise, 2892
 It nedith not to make aȝt this arraye,
 To distroye the Cite it is noo grete entrepri[se],

It were better to saue it if ye may : 2895 it were better
ffor yow it were more wurehippe euery waye,
And in your' fame the lenger to endur',
To wyne it in the feld I yow ensure.' 2898
to save it.

'How may that be?' thanne saide the kyng Ayeyn,
'Your' eouneeH is right good, so mote I goo, 2900
Owt of the town they wil nott in certeyn,
What think ye best thanne,' quod he, 'yt we shall doo?'

'Ser, on my life, ye shaH not fynde it soo,
And if ye wil enbateH vs eueryehone,
Owt of the Citee thei wil come anon; 2905
'They will come
anon out of the
city.

I wote my self as wele as eny wight, 2906
ffor ther is on that wil be aH ther gide ;

In aH the world is nott A better knyght
Thanne he is on, and better dare Abide.' 2909

'Nay,' quod the kyng, 'AH that shalbe denyed,
ffor in wurehippe and in knyghtoode sekerly
I knowe hym nott that is so good as I. 2912

Notwithstondeng After your good averse, 2913

late vs anon goo sett our' feld ayeyn,
And wheder they or we shaH bere the prise,
Ryght sone we shaH haue knowlage in certayn.' 2916
Let us go
set our field
again.'

Anon withaH thei gaderid on the playn

The kynges ost, and in conelusion

They hym enbatelid streyght as for the town. 2919

Thanne sayde madan, that was the kyng of Trase,

'Me think ye do right wele to sette this feld,

ffor ye shaH see withynne a litil spæe,

They wil come owt or ellys them yeld.' 2923

And whanne thei of the Citee them beheld,

hough sone they were enbatelid eueryehone,
'They of the city
came forth

They tared not, butt furth they come Alone,¹ 2926

¹ ? anone.

- A grete nowmber of men in good arraye : 2927
 Thanne they withoute anon to them thei hyed,
 and made no more delay. Right sone thei mette, And made no more delaye,
 ffuht fressh on [them] thei sette on euery side, 2930
 Dareht anon kyng^t Sanyk had Aspyed,
 Darell ran at King Sanyk, and broke his arm in two. And with his spere he ranne and smote hym soo,
 That with that stroke he brake his arme on twoo. 2933
- Barachias, king of Europe, Thanne came rideng^t the kyng^t barachias, 2934
 Of Europe he was lord and Souereyn ;
 Whanne Anasore Aspyed where he was,
 was smitten down by Anasore. To hym he ranne and smote hym for eerteyn, 2937
 That from his hors he felle vppon the playn,
 And as he fel his legge was brokyn soo,
 That from the grownde he myght noo ferther goo. 2940
- Madan, the king of Thraee, was slain by Generydes. Thanne the kyng^t of Traee putt hym self in prese, 2941
 Madan he hight so as I vnderstounde,
 To hym anon thanne ranne Generides,
 Right wele armed, a good spere in his hande, 2944
 Ther myght no maner harnessse hym withstonde ;
 ffor thoroughowt he strake hym quyte And elene,
 That atte bak the rede penseht was sene ; 2947
- The king of kings And with that stroke he fel and ther he dyed. 2948
 The kyng^t of kynggez harkenyd of that ease,
 he taryd not nor lenger wold Abide,
 Butt rideth furth streyght in to the place 2951
 Ther as Madan the kynggez body was,
 beheld it with a heavy cheer. And it beheld with a fuht hevy ehere,
 Complayneng^t sore¹ A pitevous thing^t to here. 2954
- He hadde hym do right wurehipfuht seruiee, 2955
 And harmones, the kyng^t of higher ynde,
 That what so euer he dede in eny wise

¹ MS. *sone*.

- Thoo ij princes wer' neuer owt of his mynde : 2958
 And for be cause they wer' to hym so kynd,
 And sware his othe as he was rightwise kyng,
 Ther deth he wold^t avenge for eny thing. 2961
- And in this hast he rode in to the feld,
 AbeH that was of perse the Banere,
 To hym he Ranne and smote hym thorough y^e sheld,
 ffor thorough owt y^e harnes persid y^e spere, 2965
 And afterward he bought that stroke full dere,
 And with his swerd he smote hym ayeyn,
 And slew hym or he passid owt of the playn. 2968
- Grete hevynes made his felissheppe aH,
 Whanne thei perseyued suerly how it was,
 And first and formest in especiaH,
 The dede body they caryed from the place 2972
 To the Citee not half a myle of space,
 And as the Costom was, after ther gise,
 They beryed hym¹ in honorabiH wise. 2975
- The bateH thanne enduryd passing sore, 2976
 And many lordes slayn on euery side,
 They of the town had fought so long afore,
 That thei ne myght noo lenger ther abide, 2979
 And to the Citeewarde furst ganne they ride ;
 Yet or they were entered euerychone,
 Of them ther were distressid manye on. 2982
- The Sowdon was as woode as he myght be, 2983
 To see his knyghtes stande in suche distresse,
 AH full of thought and counfortles was he ;
 To hym anon thanne seid Generides, 2986
 ' Good ser,' quod he, ' take ye no maner of hevynesse,
 Nowshynneth the sonne and [now] god senditH showrez,
 This day was therys, A nother² shalbe ourez. 2989

He rode to
the field and
slew Abell,
the standard-
bearer of
Persia.

[leaf 16]

They of the
town rode city-
ward,

and many of
them were
distressed.

The Sultan
was mad to
see them.

Generydes said,

¹ MS. *them*

² MS. *And A nother*

- ‘Let us rest
a day or two,
and give them
battle again,’
- And late vs rest as for a daye or twayne, 2990
That your’ pepiH may haue refresshing,
Thanne we wolle geve them) bateH new ageyn),
Without delaye and lenger taryeng’, 2993
And with the graee of god and good gideng’;
And trust suerly, ye shaH wele vnderstonde,
That we shaH haue of them) the ouer hande.’ 2996
- Now they haue refresshid them) trewly, 2997
And are redy ther enmys to Assayle,¹
A thowsand knyghtez in A eompanye,
And furth they went to geve them) new bateH, 3000
With grete eorage in knyghthode to prevayle;
And whanne the toder meny them) beheld’,
Anon) they eame and mette them) in the feld. 3003
- The battle then
began anew.
- And in a valy togederward) they went, 3004
The bateH thanne beganne new ayeyn),
No trewys was taken) ne noo poyntement,
Butt strong’ feightyng’ and many knyghtez slayn); 3007
Generides, for to sey yow eerteyn,
Whom) that euer he mette vppon) the grene,
ffrom) his sadiH he wente quyte And elene. 3010
- Syr Anasore the knyght, And ser DareH, 3011
And AH the toder knyghtez euerychone,
Eehe for his parte quyte hym) self fuH wele,
The king’s
host fled.
- And of the kynges ost slew many on); 3014
The remenaunte remevid bak anon),
And as thei fled, the writeng’ makith mynd,
Ermones,
- Come Ermones, the kyng’ of higher ynd, 3017
- with his mighty
men and their
foul weapons,
(see p. 60, p. 80,)
- With myghti men) of mervelous makyng’, 3018
like as it is rehersed here before;
Ther wepons fowle and iH faryng’,

¹ MS. *Assoyle*.

- Wher with they layde on stroke[s] grete And sore.
 Kyng¹ Ermones, to say yow ferthermore,
 Ser Anosore right sone he had Aspiel,
 And furth with aH to hym he ganne ride : 3024 rode at Sir
Anasore,
- With his wepon long¹ and iH faryng¹, 3025
 he slew his hors and smote hym on the hede,
 And in the feld he left hym liggeng¹,
 Demyng¹ non other butt that he was dede, 3028 slew his horse,
and left him
lying in the
feld for dead.
- With Anosore ther was non other rede,
 Butte vppe he rose as god wold² geve hym grace,
 And to his felawes furth he goth a pase. 3031
- Hym to a venge his thought was and his mend, 3032
 And sone he was vppon another stede,
 Streight he rideth to a knyght of ynde,
 And with a swerd² he eleue a ij his hede, 3035 Anasore got
another steed,
and slew a
knight of India.
- That in the feld he felle ther and was dede :
 Whanne Ermones wist of this Aventure,
 A hevy man he was I¹ yow ensur¹, 3038 Ermones
- And streyght he rideth onto Generides : 3039 rode at
Generydes,
 Butt² he anon was ware of his comyng¹,
 And with a naked swerd in to the prese
 Ayenst hym fuH fast he come rideng¹ ; 3042
 As sone as Ermones the kyng¹
 Sawe that he was withynne his wepons length,
 Anon he smote Att hym with aH his strength. 3045 and smote
at him,
- His wepon light vppon Generides, 3046
 And brast his sheld with aH in peeys twayn,
 Also it ranne down quyte thorough the harnes,
 A grace of god that he had not ben slayn ; 3049 breaking
his shield,
- Ther with Generydes smote hym ayeyn,
 Thoroughwt the helme a hye vppon the erest,
 And claued his hede streyte down to the brest. 3052 Generydes claued
his head to the
breast.

¹ MS. *h*.

² MS. *Be*.

- And with that stroke kyng^r Ermones was ded ; 3053
 ffor hymⁿ his knyghtez made grete ordenaunce,
 His men carried him off, They hymⁿ with drew, ther was nonⁿ other rede,
 And fast they hyed themⁿ owt of ther distaunce, 3056
 Thinkyng^r themⁿ self owt of good gouernaunce,
 [leaf 16, back] And as they rode togeder complayneng^r,
 and met King Vpponⁿ the way they mette Boleynⁿ the kyng^r ; 3059
 Belen,
 who would have And faynⁿ he wold haue themⁿ turne ayeynⁿ, 3060
 had them turn, Comfortid themⁿ in aH that euer he myght, '
 Butt aH that euer he spak it was in vaynⁿ ;
 With that anonⁿ ther answerd hymⁿ a knyght, 3063
 And as the story seith Otran he hight,
 'Of our' fortune in euery thyng^r,' quod he,
 'I shaH suerly telle yow the certente. 3066
- but they said, In yender ost,' quod he, 'ther is a knyght, 3067
 'In yonder host he is noo very man, what euer he be,
 is a knight who Butt rather a fende, and that I yow be hight,
 is a very fiend, Ther is no manⁿ alyve that he wolle flee ; 3070
 and hath slain Oure kyng^r is ded, whiche sore repentith me.
 our king.' And suche a prinee we eanne not gete ayeynⁿ,
 And he it is suerly that hath hymⁿ slaynⁿ. 3073
- Belen seeks Whanne kyng^r Bolynⁿ had knowlage of y^t case, 3074
 Generydes, A hevy manⁿ he was and comforteles,
 And furth with aH he rideth on a pace,
 aH in a rage seching^r Generides, 3077
 And ther they mette togeder in the prese,
 Thanne was the bateH aH togeder doon,
 but they were So att that tyme thei were departid sone. 3080
 parted.
- The men of The menⁿ of perce that day were fortinat, 3081
 Persia won The toder fled as fast as euer thei might,
 the day. And in hymⁿ self they stode soo desolate ;

- Whanne kyng^t Bolynⁿ saw they were putte to flight,
 That in noo wise they wold no lenger fight,
 With hymⁿ ther was nonⁿ other poyntement,
 Butt lost the feld and rideth to his tent. 3087
- Too the Citee rideth Generides, 3088
 With knyghtes and with Sqyers many on,
 ffor hymⁿ was made grete Ioy of more And lesse,
 And festis made among^t them eu[er]ychon. 3091
 Thanne to the Sowdonⁿ furth he went anon,
 Of whomⁿ he hadde his thank right specially,
 And grete yeftys as he was wele worthy. 3094
- The kyng^t of kynggez stiH was in his tent, 3095
 And yndly wroth that no manⁿ cowde hymⁿ plesse,
 And in hymⁿ self he cowde not be econtent,
 TiH he had fought with Generides, 3098
 They twaynⁿ to geder owt of aH the prese,
 And ther vpponⁿ he callid his counceH,
 That his entent the souner myght prevayle. 3101
- At his eallyng^t his lordes came anon, 3102
 And this he sayde, that euery man myght here,
 ‘Now ye be here in present euerychon,
 This is,’ *quod* he, ‘the effecte of my mater, 3105
 It is now a full quarter of a yere,
 Oure lyeng^t her the Sowdonⁿ for to wyne,
 And att this day we are new to be gynne. 3108
- And yet I wote right wele it lithe in me, 3109
 The Sowdonⁿ to distroye and aH his lande,
 Of aH maner vitayle I haue plente ;
 Notwithstondyng^t, if he wiH take onⁿ hand 3112
 To fynde a knyght, that I may vnderstonde
 Be right wele born and of high lenage,
 To fight with me for aH this Eritage, 3115

Generydes rides
to the city,

and is received
with great joy.

The King of
kings was wroth,

and would not
be content till
he fought
with Generydes.

He called his
council.

‘We have been
here now a
quarter of a
year,’ said he,

‘and have to
begin anew.

Let the Sultan
find a knight to
fight with me,

- and make an
end of this war.' And so to make an ende of all this werre 3116
Betwix vs twayne ; and if he wold not so,
I with distroye his land both nyghe and ferre,
his land and hym self where euer hee goo, 3119
And for the Aecomplishment Also,
Be cause I wold that it shuld be endid sone,
Withynne iiij dayes I wold that it were done.' 3122
- King lamadon gave answe're in this ease, 3123
And in his speeche he was som what dismayed,
This eowardly his hert and his seruiee
Was to the Sowdon, what so euer he sayde ; 3126
Yet not for thy his reasone furth he layde
All opynly ; ' my lordes,' quod he,
' The kyng hath seid right wele as semyth me.' 3129
- For this cause he gaue sone his assentt, 3130
That in that space a treti myght be hadde ;
And as he seid all other were content,
Thanne was the kyng of kynggez passing glad, 3133
And vpon these iij lordes wise and saddle
A poyntid were to goo on this message,
Onto the Sowdon and his Baronage. 3136
- On of them iij of Corynth¹ was he born, 3137
Callid Sampson, the story doth expresse ;
The secunde, and his aneetors be for, .
In Damask born, the writeng doth witnesse, 3140
A man of wurchippe and of grete sadnesse ;
The iij^{de} was a man, to say yow right,
Of Ethiope, and Ionathas he hight. 3143
- Anon these lordes went on ther message, 3144
Eche man A brawnehe of Olyve in his hande,
In token of pece for ther viage,

each with a
branch of olive.

¹ MS. *Cornyth*.

- Too goo and come saff, as I vnderstonde, 3147
 lyke as the custom was in euery lande ;
 So fourth they went withoute more¹ delay,
 To the Sowdon ther errand for to say. 3150 [leaf 17]
- And whanne that thei were come to his presenee, 3151 They came to
 Of ther massage they kept noo thyng¹ in store, the Sultan
 Butt in aH the hast they told hym the sentenee, and told him
 like as it is rehersed here before, 3154 the message,
 In euery maner thing¹ and summe² what more,
 So as the kyng¹ gave them in commaundment,
 Accordeng¹ sum what onto his entent ; 3157
- The whiche was this, to say yow in substaunce, 3158 and that he
 That he shuld send his doughter to the kyng¹, should send
 And by that meane the striff and variaunce his daughter to
 Be twix them bothe myght the souner haue endyng.³ the King.
 ffor an answee in ther ayeyn goyng¹,
 Of ther massag¹ they praed them to say
 In aH this mater playnly ye or nay. 3164
- Whanne ther massag¹ was aH to geder sayde, 3165
 Ther was noo lord nee knyght that gave answer¹, The lords were
 Wher with trewly the Sowdon was dismayde ; silent and the
 Generides sawe that, and drew hym nere : 3168 Sultan dismayed.
 ‘ Ser, if it like your’ goodnes for to here,
 I shaH for yow,’ quod he, ‘ be in this place,
 Be your’ lieence geve answer in this case.’ 3171
- And thus he sayde be fore them eu[er]yehon : 3172
 ‘ Thez massangers they shaH wele vnderstonde,
 Among¹ your’ knyghtez aH that ther is on
 ShaH vnder take to Answer¹ for this lande ; 3175 Generydes
 ffor I my self wiH take it att ther hand, undertook to
 And here is my glove, this mater to defende, answer for the
 Withynne iiij dayes therof to make an ende. 3178 land.

¹ MS. *wordes more*.² MS. *sunne*.³ MS. *an end*.

- Generydes
guaranteed that
no dishonour
should befall
Clarionas.
- And your¹ doughter also, Clarionas, 3179
he shaH do hir no *maner* of villanye,
Nother dishonour, whiH I haue liff and space,
And ferthermore I vnderstonde trewly, 3182
By ther massage declaryd opynly,
Ther shaH now take of hym this enterprise,
Butt he be wele born in eny wise. 3185
- And to that ye shaH wele knowe my counceH, 3186
Was neuer man herd so moeche of me ;
A kyngges sonne I am withoute fayle,
And my moder is a quene in eertayn[te] : 3189
here afterward ye shaH wele know and see,
Althoughe he be a princee of nobyH fame,
To fight with me to hym shalbe noo shame.' 3192
- The Sultan was
glad.
- Whanne the Sowdon perseivid his entent, 3193
And herd hym wele in al that euer he sayde,
Thanne was he gladde and verily weH content,
That he was of so good a knyght purveyd ; 3196
Yet with hym self he was nott wele apayde,
And in his mende repentid hym full sore,
That he so meeche had wrongid hym before. 3199
- One of the lords
said Generydes
should take
advice before
meddling with
a prince that
was peerless.
- Whanne these lordes had answeere in this wise, 3200
One of them sayde on to Generides ;
' It is weH don that ye take a good avise,
Or that ye putt your self so ferre in prese, 3203
To medyH with a princee that is perles ;
ffor he is knowen in contres ferre and nere.'
Generides anon gave hym answeere, 3206
- Generydes said,
' Your king is
a noble knight,
- And this he sayde, in presenee of them al ; 3207
' As for your kyng, he is a nobiH knyght
I canne wele think, and so men do hym calle ;

- Butt my quarell is growndid vppon right, 3210
 Whiche geueth me corage for to fight,
 And here my trowth I wolde not fayle my day, but I will not
 My self alone, and so I *prae* yow saye.' 3213 fail my day.'
- They toke his glove, And to that prince thei went 3214
 With ther answe in euery maner thing:
 And of Generides and his entent
 ffuH playnly thei told onto the kyng: 3217
 And whanne that he ther of had knowlaching,
 The kyng hym self, withoute eny more, The king
 Ayenst that day he purveyd hym therefore. 3220
- Too aH his ost he gave A special charge, 3221 gave his host
 Ayenst that day that he shuld fight alone, charge to remove
 They shuld remeve that place ij myle large, two miles away,
 And ther to geder abide euerychon 3224
 What euer fah, for reskewe wold he non; for rescue would
 And ther vppon, to folow his entent, he none.
 To them he gave a streight commaundment. 3227
- The Citesens thanne was not wele apayde, 3228 The citizens were
 Be cause Generides to[ke] this in hand: not pleased,
 They love[d] hym so wele, and this they said,
 'A better knyght ther is in noo land.' 3231
 And whanne Clarionas ded vnderstonde
 That he shuld take vppon hym this bateH,
 Thanne was she fuH of thought and noo merveH. 3234
 'Now, good MirabeH, what is best?' *quod* she, 3235
 'What shaH I doo? saye me your good advise.'
 And said, 'wold god he wold do Aftur me,
 Thanne shuld he not take this interprise.' 3238
 'Nay, late be that in eny maner wise,
 Madame,' *quod* she, 'for sothe he hath it take,
 ffor his wurchippe he may it not for sake. 3241

- Nether he wiȝt, Madame, I telle yow playn.' 3242
 'Now thanne,' *quod* she, 'me think this is to doon;
 I wiȝt send hym Gwynot my chaunberleyn,
 This rede penseȝ I wiȝt send hym anon; 3245
 [leaf 17, back] And or that he onȝ the bateȝ goon,
 ffor esingȝ of my hert I wiȝt hym praye,
 To speke with me to morow or to day.' 3248
- 'That is wele doo,' *quod* she, 'withoute lese.' 3249
 and sent for Generydes
 Thanne chargyd she hir chaunberleyn to goo:
 'hye yow,' *quod* she, 'onto Generides;
 This rede penseȝ ye shaȝ bere hym also, 3252
 Whiche I myself enbrowdred and no moo:
 Pray hym also or he passe the Citee,
 to come and speak with her.
 In eny wise that he wiȝt speke with me.' 3255
- On this message now goȝ hir chaunberleyn, 3256
 And to Generides he takith the waye,
 With hir tokyn and aȝ hir errand playn,
 In aȝ the hast possible that he may; 3259
 And he also for gate nott for to say,
 On hir behalf afore his departengȝ,
 hir for to see levingȝ aȝ other thingȝ. 3262
- Generydes was glad of this,
 Off that message Generides was fayn, 3263
 And furth with aȝ rewardid hym right weȝ;
 he sent a token onȝ to hir ayeyn,
 Bee cause that she shuldȝ vnderstonde and fele, 3266
 That he had donȝ his message euery dele,
 And ferthermore he ehargid hym to say,
 and promised to see her soon.
 he woldȝ see hir in aȝ the hast he may. 3269
- Now goȝ Gwynot¹ vnto Clarionas, 3270
 And told hir what he had donȝ that day.
 Generides, whanne he had tyme and space,

¹ MS. *Gwynan*.

- To hir ehaunber he toke the redy waye ; 3273 He came to her
And att a wyndow, sothely for to say,
he spake to hir, right as he wold devise,
Att good leysere in honorabiſt wise. 3276
- Whanne he departid ther was grete hevynes, 3277
And as he toke his leve in his goyng
Thanne eehe to other made to geder full promyse, Each to other
To kepe hym trew aboue aſt other thing, 3280 made promise
Now late vs thanne speke of Belen the kyng,
Whiche att his day thinkyſt with spere and sheld
hym self alone to come into the feld. 3283
- The iij^{de} morow, as sone as it was day, 3284 On the third
kyng Belyn rose and made hym aſt redy,
his stede moreſt trappyd in good arraye,
With his harnes enbrowderyd by and by, 3287
hym self armyd full wele and full ſure[ly], armed himself,
his helme was wele ordeynyed for the nonys,
Right wele garyſhed with perle & preeious stonys.
- Kyng Belyn rideth in to the feld alone, 3291 and rode to
As it appoynted was betwix them twayn ; the field.
his pepiſt were avoydid eueryehone,
And ther he taryed stiſt vppon the playn, 3294
Supposing weſt ther was no man eerteyn,
Conſideryng his manhod and his myght,
Wold be so bold ayenst hym to fight. 3297
- The tidynggez thorough owt the Cite sprong, 3298
hough kyng Belyn was armed in the mede,
Generides thought he was passing long,
And furth anon was broughtt Grisseſt his stede, 3301 Generydes
A myghti hors and very ſure atte nede , mounted his
The Sowdon gave it hym in eertente, horse Grisell,
Whiche no man shuld haue ſaue only he. 3304

- Hys trappour was made in the fressest wise, 3305
 Wrought with peerlys of mervelus makynge,
 hym self armyd atte poynte devise,
 his helme with stonys had his garnysshyng; 3308
 The rede penseH vppon his spere hangyng,
 hym to behold and luge withoute dought,
 A knyght hym semyd for to be right stought. 3311
- and all the people prayed
 All the pepyH that in the Citee were, 3312
 Men and women to prayer they them gave,
 Beseehyng god, with devout maner,
 God to speed him,
 To spede hym wel ther contre for to save : 3315
 Clarionas, good tidenggez for to haue,
 late nee erly she wold nott seese,
 Butt nyght And day prayed for Generides. 3318
- The Sultan brought him to the gate,
 The Sowdon brought hym streight on to y^e gate, 3319
 And in like wise the Citezens euerychon,
 And whanne that they had brought hym All yer at,
 and he rode forth alone,
 he toke his leve and furth he rode alone 3322
 In to the mede, and ther he founde anon
 and found the King of kings.
 The kyng of kynggez vppe and down rideng,
 And he anon to hym com waloping. 3325
- Whanne kyng Bellyn saw he was comyng,
 3326
 To hym he rode, and mette hym on the waye,
 ' Say me sooth,' quoth Belen,
 ' Now say me soth,' quod he, ' withoute feyning,
 ' whether thou art a massanger or nay ?' 3329
 Wheder art thou a massanger or nay ?
 ' I am,' quod he, ' a massanger I saye ;
 ' I am,' said Generydes,
 This way I take for my right viage
 ' and this is my message :
 ffro the Sowdon, and this is my massage. 3332
- To warre vppon my lord thou dost hym wrong,
 3333
 he sent the word now, whanne I cam hym fro,
 To voyde his grownde and tary not to long,
 Void my lord's ground,

- Vnto thy contre wher thou hast to do : 3336
 This thinkith me best, and if thou wilt do so,
 Ayeyn I wil goo as a massanger,
 And full trewly declare hym thynne answer. 3339
- And if thou wilt not follow myn advise, 3340 [leaf 18]
 Thou shalt wele knowe that I am not come on message,
 Peraventur thou may¹ repent it twyes, if not thou
 That thou hast askid of this lande trevage ; 3343 mayst repent it.
 To kepe it fre and owt of all seruage
 I shalt my self, as for this landis right,
 With goddes grace defende it as a knyght. 3346
- And kyng Bellyn whanne his purpose hard, 3347 King Belen
 And wherefore that he came in to the feld,
 Thanne wex he pale and chaungyd clene his mode, waxed pale ;
 hym self anon he closed in his sheld ; 3350
 Generides his countenaunce behelde,
 he tared not butt dressid hym in his gere,
 And in his hande anon he toke his spere. 3353
- Thanne was no more a do butt on they sett, 3354
 Anon they Ranne to geder in the feld, they ran together,
 The kyng and he fresshly ther they mette,
 And eche of them smote other on the sheld, 3357 and smote each
 With strokez grete, and bothe ther sperys helde, other with great
 So ther vppon they tared not certayn, strokes.
 Butte furth with all they toke ther course ayeyn. 3360
- Ther stedys were both Inly good and weicht ; 3361
 Generides came rounde vppon the grownde,
 And brake the kynggez helme before his sight,
 The spere went to the vesage quyte and rownde, 3364 In another
 Duryng his lif it myght be know that wound. course Generides
 The kyng ayenward strake Generides brake the King's
 Vppon the side, and perissched the harnes 3367 helm,
 and the King
 pierced his
 harness

¹ MS. *may it*.

- so that the blood ran down. Vnto the skynne ; the blode ranne down therby, 3368
Butt, as god wold, he felt no harme in dede.
- He said in mockery, Thanne saide the kyng sum what in mokkery,
'Maister,' *quod* he, 'thy side begynne for to blede,
Wherefore this is my eounce^h and my rede,
ffor this mater noo lenger for to stryff,
- 'Go home again, and escape alive.' Go home ageyn and thu shalt skape alyve.' 3374
- 'I know,' *quod* he, 'that on lyve I may skape, 3375
And so I shaft wheder thu wilt or noo,
The bledingge of my side is butt a Iape,
It encreasith my corage to and too ; 3378
In thi vesage think on thy wounde also,
The whiche shaft neuer a way I the ensure,
Whi^h that y^u art a lyvez creature.' 3381
- The King was wrother, and they ran another course ; Thanne was the kyng^t wrother, I yow behight ; 3382
They toke ther course and ranne to geder new,
And ther the stedis mette *with* suehe a myght
Ther hors foundred, and, for to say yow trew, 3385
horses and men^h went down. Bothe hors and man and a^h *y^er* ouer threw ;
They of the Citee sawe that eneownteryng^t,
And hough it was befa^h euery thing. 3388
- Clarionas was heavy for Generydes. And ferd they were as for Generides, 3389
ffu^h hevy was Clarionas thanne also,
And euer more in prayours sti^h opese,
Vnto the tyme she knew it shuld goo. 3392
of that fortune kyng Bellyn was fu^h woo,
So was Generides a bashed¹ also thore,
They rose up, Butte vppe they rose, to say yow ferthermore, 3395
- and without knowing it changed horses, and went at each other with their swords. And chaungyd horses onto them bothe vnknowyng,²
Wherefore they were fu^h wroth, I yow ensure ;
To geder thanne they went with swordes drawe,

¹ MS. *and bashed*.² So MS. ? *unknowe*.

- And leyde on strokes owt of all mesure, 3399
Generides sward was passing sure,
And, as the story wele remember canne,
It was a princees callid Iulyan, 3402
- Generydes'
sword had
belonged to the
Emperor Julian.
- Wniehe was sumtyme of Rome the Emperour; 3403
The Sowdon had it after his deeeasse,
And as a tresour euery day and owre
he kept that sward in grete tendernesse, 3406
And after gaue it on to generides;
So ferthermore, as I this mater feele,
Whanne eche of them had beten other wele, 3409
- The kyng of kynggez seid to hym ayeyn, 3410
'What aylith the to fight for this mater?
A grete foly for the take the payne,
To the it towchith not in no maner; 3413
I eounce ther for, while thou art here,
Be come my man, and thou wilt do so
The pese shaft sone be twix vs twoo. 3416
- The King of
kings said to him
'Why dost thou
fight thus? it
toucheth thee
not.
- I shaft also in wurehippe the avaunee, 3417
And largely departe with the also;
ffor meehe better it lith in my puessenee,
Thanne in the Sowdon powre so to do: 3420
And for Clarionas I say also,
Whanne she is myn, here what I say to the,
Att thy pleasure hir shalt thou haue of me. 3423
- and when
Clarionas is
mine thou shalt
have her.
- And thou wilt not do as I the saye, 3424
I late the now haue knowlage vterly,
That of my hand here shalt thou dye to daye;
Troste noo lenger to my eurtessy, 3427
I haue entretyd the full Ientelly,
And how thou wilt be rewlid in this case,
Say ye or nay, or ye go owt of this place.' 3430
- If not thou shalt
die to-day.'

- Generydes
answers, Thanne furth with aH Answered Generides, 3431
'To thy seruice,' *quod* he, 'if I me bynde,
I se right wele I may sone haue my pece ;
- [leaf 18, back] But that was neuer enprentid in my mende, 3434
'I cannot be
untrew to my
promise ; To be vntrew it eome me neuer of kynde ;
That I haue said and take of my promys,
O trowth I wiH not breke it in noo wise. 3437
- and as for
Clarionas, I will
never have her
of thee.' And forthermore, as for Clarionas, 3438
I vnderstonde thu proferest hir to me,
Whiche is not thyne truly ne neuer was,
And suche a yeft is litiH worth parde ; 3441
ffor one thing¹ shaft I say in certente,
If I hir shaft reioyse, so god me save,
Of the playnly hir wiH I neuer haue.' 3444
- The king was
more wroth
than ever,
and they went
together again. Thanne was the kyng¹ mech¹ wrother than before, 3445
And on they went to geder now ayen ;
Thanne eyther other layde wonder sore,
Wherof the sownd rebowndid on the playn, 3448
- The king's steed
which Generydes
rode began
to fail, The stede that was the kynggez for eertayn
Vnder Generides beganne to fayle,
Whiche hym abashed sore and noo merveH. 3451
- The kynggez stede was alwey good and sure 3452
ffor aH his labour, yet onnese he swett ;
he saw right wele y^e toder myghit not dure,
Wherefore on hym right fressly¹ he sett, 3455
The shulders of ther horsez to geder mett ;
Generides vppon the feyntid stede,
and went to
the ground. Streyghit to the grownde hors a[nd] man yede. 3458
- His sword fell
from his hand,
but he caught it
again, His swerd ther with ou[t] of his hand it feH, 3459
Butt as god wold he had it sone ayeyn,
he lay not long¹ but riseth fayre and stiH,

¹ ? *fersly*.

- And furth he goth, to sey yow for certayn, 3462
 To kyng¹ Bellyng¹, And toke hym be the reyne. and seized the
 he sporyd his hors and from hym wold haue goo;¹ king's bridle.
 'A bide,' quod he, 'thu shalt not skape me soo. 3465
- This stede,' he seith, 'hath seruyd the full wele, 3466
 The whiche trewly repentith me full soore,
 Ayenst my will thu hast hym euerydele,
 Butt now o trowth thu shalt haue hym no more, 3469
 This stede is myn, thu wist it wele [be]fore ;
 A light anon withoute wordes moo, 'This steed
 Or suerly I shaH make the or I goo.' 3472 is mine,
 alight anon.'
- The kyng¹ presid fast away certayn, 3473 The king
 Generides helde stiH the reane alway ; pressed away,
 And so be twix the striving¹ of them twayn, but Generydes
 The horse reversid bak, and ther he lay. 3476 held the rein,
 and between
 Generides anon to hym ganne say, them the horse
 'Not long agoo thu haddist me in this plight, fell backward.
 And now I trost to god I shaH the quyte.' 3479
- Generides his swarde toke in his hande, 3480 Generydes took
 Claryet it hight, the store tellith me so, his sword Claryet
 A better swerd ther was neuer in noo land.
 The kyng¹ arose and wold a gon hym froo, 3483
 ffor of his fayling¹ ther he was full woo ;
 Generides was noo thyng¹ eviH apayde,
 And with his swerd full fast on hym he layde. 3486 and laid on the
 King full fast,
- The kynges sheld he made a quarter lesse, 3487 cutting a piece
 The swerd² is glansid down on his kne, off his shield,
 And ther is² brake asonder the harnes, and breaking
 That aH to geder bare a man myght see : 3490 the harness on
 his kneec.
- The kyng¹ Bellyn was wrothe as he myght be, The King
 he strake att hym with a full eger wiH, wounded him
 And in the tethe he woundid hym full iH. 3493 in the teeth.

¹ MS. *goon*,

² ? *it*.

- 'Now,' said he, Thanne seyde the kyng^t, 'now att aȝt aventur' 3494
 'I have quit you.' I haue the quyte, and ther of am I fayn,
 The nexst that I the geve I the ensure,
 I wiȝt thu vndersto[n]de it for sertayn : 3497
 Ne shaȝt thu quyte it me ayeyn.^t
 With thoo wordes wrothe was Generides,
 And to the kyng^t presid stiȝt opese. 3500
- Generydes
gave him such
a stroke that
he cut his ear off. And thanne suche a stroke he gave hym *yer* 3501
 Vppon the helme, the bare visage was sene ;
 The swerd^t was sharpe and ranne down be his ere,
 That from the hede he smote it quyte and clene, 3504
 And from his swerd^t it felle vppon the grene :
 Thanne¹ was kyng Bellyn astownyd sore,
 The King was
abashed. And in hym self abasshed more and more. 3507
- Both were weary,
but their hearts
were strong. They were full wery bothe, I yow be hight, 3508
 Notwithstondeng^t ther hartys were full strong,
 On them ther was no pece of harnys right,
 Of plate ne mayle, but aȝt to geder wrong^t ; 3511
 And no wonder, for they foughten long^t,
 The King struck
again at
Generydes, Yet in his hert for anger and for payn,
 The kyng^t stroke to Generides ayeyn, 3514
- and smote him on
the head. And with his swerd^t he smote [him] on the hede, 3515
 That wher he was he wist not vterly ;
 'If thu,' quod he, 'had done after my rede,
 Thu shuldest not now haue ben in this parte.' 3518
 Generides hym Answeryd trewelly,
 'If I noo thyng^t dede after thynne entent,
 Trust me right wele yet did I not repent.' 3521
- Generydes in
return smote
him on the same
side where he
was hurt before, And with that worde he smote hym so ayeyn, 3522
 And cleue his hede down and hurt hym² sore,
 And by fortune it happid so certeyn,

¹ MS. *Thāme*.² MS. *hyn*.





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